PREVIEWS OF ALL 130 FBS TEAMS

ATHLON SPORTS

COLLEGE FOOTBALL 2020

INSIDE

The Top 50 Players in College Football

15 Things to Watch in 2020

Athlon's Top 10

1. Clemson
2. Alabama
3. Ohio State
4. Oklahoma
5. Penn State
6. Florida
7. Georgia
8. LSU
9. Notre Dame
10. Oregon

PLUS

Trevor Lawrence

A Q&A with the Face of College Football

Recruiting Rankings

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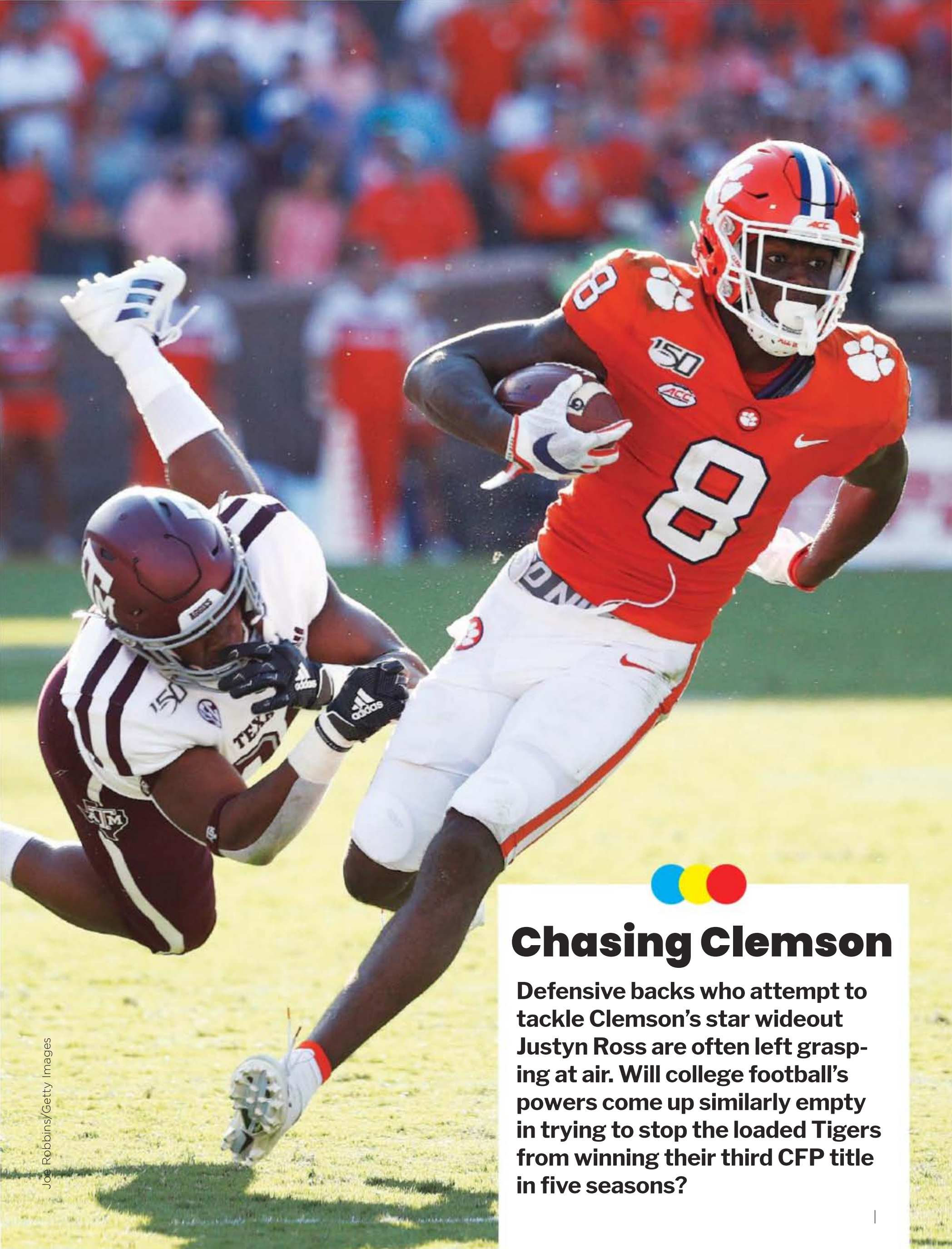
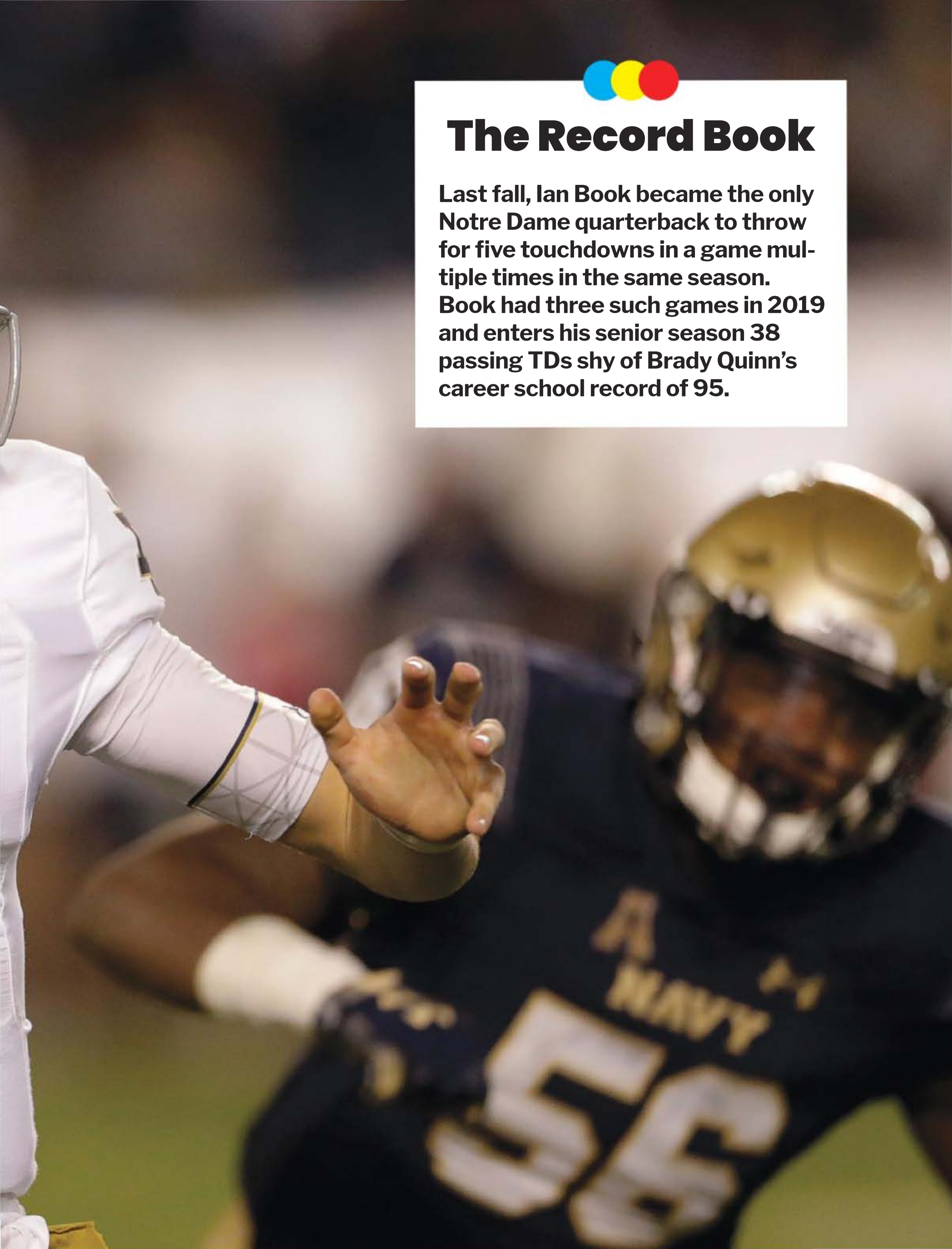


Joe Robbins/Getty Images

Chasing Clemson

Defensive backs who attempt to tackle Clemson's star wideout Justyn Ross are often left grasping at air. Will college football's powers come up similarly empty in trying to stop the loaded Tigers from winning their third CFP title in five seasons?

AP Photo/Gregory Bull



The Record Book

Last fall, Ian Book became the only Notre Dame quarterback to throw for five touchdowns in a game multiple times in the same season. Book had three such games in 2019 and enters his senior season 38 passing TDs shy of Brady Quinn's career school record of 95.

ATHLON SPORTS

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Editor's Letter

This fall marks the 50th anniversary of twin tragedies that rocked college football.

On Oct. 2, 1970, a chartered Martin 4-0-4 airliner carrying members of the Wichita State football team crashed in the Colorado mountains. Among the 31 dead were 14 Wichita State football players.

A few weeks later, on Nov. 14, 1970, a chartered DC-9 carrying 37 members of the Marshall football team, eight coaches, 25 boosters and five crew crashed just short of the Tri-State Airport in Huntington, W.Va., killing all 75 aboard. It is still known today as the "worst sports-related air tragedy in U.S. history."

In the aftermath, both schools showed remarkable resiliency in the face of devastating loss. Wichita State continued its season, filling out its roster with freshmen and actually resuming its schedule on Oct. 17. The Shockers finished that season 0–9 but two years later posted a 6–5 record under coach Bob Seaman.

Marshall's response became legendary. As depicted in the film "We Are Marshall", the Thundering Herd quickly rebuilt its program as the campus rallied around the surviving players and persuaded the administration to resume playing as quickly as possible. The school fielded a team in 1971 and won two games, including an emotional home opener against Xavier.

Marshall players commemorate the 75 lives lost on Nov. 14, 1970.

Wichita State discontinued its football program in 1986 due to financial difficulties, but Marshall has soldiered on successfully, winning two national championships at the I-AA level and then transitioning to the FBS level and continuing to win with great frequency. According to our 2020 projections, the success will extend into this season — Doc Holliday's Herd will win seven games in 2020 and meet Nevada in the Hawaii Bowl.

It is important to mark these anniversaries in remembrance of the lives lost, but also to recognize the powerful role that sports can play in restoring hope. It's a lesson that is especially important today, as the world deals with the COVID-19 outbreak and the resulting loss of life and economic devastation.

We still don't know as of this writing what the 2020 football season will look like, but we do know this — whenever the games resume, they will be instrumental in the healing process and will provide a rallying point for a country that yearns for normality.

Even if you have to do it from afar, we invite you to celebrate the athletes whose lives have been disrupted just like everyone else's but who will nonetheless compete their hearts out when given the chance.

Enjoy the season, whatever it may look like.

Rob Doster, Managing Editor

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL 2020

Contents

Sam Howell
NORTH CAROLINA

Micah Parsons
PENN STATE

8 Preseason Rankings

10 All-America Team

14 20th Annual Athlon Sports Unit Rankings

18 15 Things to Watch in 2020

24 Trevor Lawrence *A Q&A with the Face of College Football*

26 2020's Top 50 Players

30 Teams on the Rise

34 ACC Preview
Boston College 38
Clemson.....40
Florida State.....42
Louisville 44
NC State 46
Syracuse 48
Wake Forest 50
Duke 52
Georgia Tech 54
Miami.....56
North Carolina 58
Pittsburgh.....60
Virginia 62
Virginia Tech 64

66 AAC Preview
Cincinnati 70
East Carolina 72
Houston 73
Memphis.....74
Navy.....75
SMU 76
Temple 77
Tulane.....78
Tulsa 79
UCF 80
USF 81

82 Big 12 Preview
Baylor 86
Iowa State.....88
Kansas 90
Kansas State 92
Oklahoma 94
Oklahoma State.....96
TCU 98
Texas 100
Texas Tech 102
West Virginia 104

106 Big Ten Preview
Indiana 110
Maryland 112
Michigan.....114
Michigan State 116
Ohio State 118
Penn State 120
Rutgers.....122
Illinois 124
Iowa 126
Minnesota 128
Nebraska.....130
Northwestern 132
Purdue 134
Wisconsin 136

138 C-USA Preview
Charlotte 142
FAU 143
FIU.....144
Marshall.....145
Middle Tennessee...146
Old Dominion.....147
WKU 148
Louisiana Tech 149
North Texas 150
Rice 151
Southern Miss.....152
UAB.....153
UTEP 154
UTSA 155

Howell: Grant Halverson/Getty; Parsons: Randy Litzinger/Icon via AP; Slovis: John McGillen/USC Athletics

Kedon Slovis
USC

156
MAC Preview

Akron 160
Bowling Green 161
Buffalo 162
Kent State.....163
Miami (Ohio) 164
Ohio 165
Ball State.....166
Central Michigan.....167
Eastern Michigan....168
Northern Illinois.....169
Toledo 170
Western Michigan ..171

174
MW Preview

Air Force.....176
Boise State 177
Colorado State.....178
New Mexico.....179
Utah State.....180
Wyoming.....181
Fresno State.....182
Hawaii 183
Nevada.....184
San Diego State.....185
San Jose State 186
UNLV 187

189
Pac-12 Preview

California.....192
Oregon 194
Oregon State.....196
Stanford 198
Washington 200
Washington State...202
Arizona 204
Arizona State 206
Colorado.....208
UCLA 210
USC.....212
Utah 214

216
SEC Preview

Florida.....220
Georgia 222
Kentucky.....224
Missouri.....226
South Carolina.....228
Tennessee.....230
Vanderbilt 232
Alabama 234
Arkansas 236
Auburn 238
LSU 240
Ole Miss.....242
Mississippi State.....244
Texas A&M 246

248
Sun Belt Preview

Appalachian State ..252
Coastal Carolina.....253
Georgia Southern ...254
Georgia State.....255
Troy.....256
Arkansas State.....257
Louisiana 258
South Alabama 259
Texas State.....260
ULM 261

BYU.....262
Notre Dame 264
Army.....266
Connecticut.....267
Liberty 268
New Mexico State...269
UMass 270

271
Recruiting

282
Schedules

288
The Back Page

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ATHLON SPORTS PRESEASON 130 FBS RANKINGS

1. Clemson
2. Alabama
3. Ohio State
4. Oklahoma
5. Penn State
6. Florida
7. Georgia
8. LSU
9. Notre Dame
10. Oregon
11. Texas A&M
12. Wisconsin
13. Auburn
14. Oklahoma State
15. Michigan
16. Texas
17. Iowa State
18. North Carolina
19. USC
20. Minnesota
21. Cincinnati
22. UCF
23. Boise State
24. Virginia Tech
25. Iowa
26. Tennessee
27. Baylor
28. Memphis
29. Miami (Fla.)
30. Louisville
31. Arizona State
32. Kentucky
33. California
34. Washington
35. Florida State
36. Utah
37. Nebraska
38. Ole Miss
39. Pitt
40. Indiana
41. Louisiana
42. Appalachian State
43. TCU
44. Virginia
45. Wake Forest
46. Kansas State
47. South Carolina
48. Mississippi State
49. Purdue
50. Michigan State
51. BYU
52. Missouri
53. SMU
54. Stanford
55. UCLA
56. West Virginia
57. NC State
58. Texas Tech
59. Northwestern
60. Oregon State
61. Washington State
62. Illinois
63. UAB
64. Wyoming
65. Air Force
66. Duke
67. Syracuse
68. Boston College
69. Tulane
70. Houston
71. Navy
72. WKU
73. Buffalo
74. Arkansas
75. Georgia Tech
76. Arizona
77. Marshall
78. FAU
79. Southern Miss
80. Louisiana Tech
81. Temple
82. Nevada
83. San Diego State
84. Miami (Ohio)
85. Ohio
86. Maryland
87. Tulsa
88. Arkansas State
89. Charlotte
90. Toledo
91. Central Michigan
92. Hawaii
93. Army
94. Colorado
95. Georgia Southern
96. Vanderbilt
97. Ball State
98. Utah State
99. USF
100. East Carolina
101. Colorado State
102. Western Michigan
103. Kent State
104. Fresno State
105. Middle Tennessee
106. Kansas
107. Rutgers
108. FIU
109. San Jose State
110. Liberty
111. Troy
112. Georgia State
113. Rice
114. North Texas
115. Coastal Carolina
116. Northern Illinois
117. Eastern Michigan
118. UNLV
119. New Mexico
120. South Alabama
121. ULM
122. UTSA
123. Connecticut
124. Old Dominion
125. Texas State
126. Bowling Green
127. Akron
128. New Mexico State
129. UTEP
130. UMass

1

2

3

Lawrence: Clemson Athletics: Harris: Paul Abell: Fields: Bruce Schwartzman

CONFERENCE Predictions

Records are projections for the 2020 season, overall and conference, through the regular season and conference championship games.

ACC

ATLANTIC

1. Clemson 13-0, 8-0
2. Louisville 8-4, 5-3
3. Florida State 7-5, 5-3
4. Wake Forest 7-5, 4-4
5. NC State 6-6, 3-5
6. Syracuse 6-6, 2-6
7. Boston College 4-8, 1-7

COASTAL

1. North Carolina 9-4, 6-2
2. Virginia Tech 8-4, 5-3
3. Miami 9-3, 5-3
4. Pitt 7-5, 4-4
5. Virginia 7-5, 4-4
6. Duke 5-7, 2-6
7. Georgia Tech 3-9, 2-6

ACC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Clemson over North Carolina

AMERICAN ATHLETIC

1. Cincinnati 11-2, 7-1
2. UCF 10-3, 7-1
3. Memphis 9-3, 6-2
4. SMU 8-4, 5-3
5. Tulane 6-6, 4-4
6. Houston 6-6, 4-4
7. Navy 6-6, 4-4
8. Temple 6-6, 3-5
9. Tulsa 5-7, 2-6
10. USF 4-8, 1-7
11. East Carolina 4-8, 1-7

AAC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Cincinnati over UCF

BIG 12

1. Oklahoma 12-1, 8-1
2. Oklahoma State 9-4, 6-3
3. Texas 8-4, 6-3
4. Iowa State 8-4, 6-3
5. Baylor 8-4, 5-4
6. TCU 7-5, 5-4
7. Kansas State 7-5, 4-5
8. West Virginia 5-7, 3-6
9. Texas Tech 5-7, 2-7
10. Kansas 2-10, 0-9

BIG 12 CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Oklahoma over Oklahoma State

BIG TEN

EAST

1. Ohio State 13-0, 9-0
2. Penn State 11-1, 8-1
3. Michigan 9-3, 6-3
4. Indiana 7-5, 4-5
5. Michigan State 6-6, 4-5
6. Maryland 4-8, 2-7
7. Rutgers 2-10, 1-8

WEST

1. Wisconsin 9-4, 7-2
2. Minnesota 9-3, 6-3
3. Iowa 8-4, 5-4
4. Nebraska 7-5, 4-5
5. Purdue 6-6, 3-6
6. Northwestern 5-7, 2-7
7. Illinois 5-7, 2-7

BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Ohio State over Wisconsin

CONFERENCE USA

EAST

1. WKU 8-5, 6-2
2. Marshall 7-5, 6-2
3. FAU 8-4, 6-2
4. Charlotte 7-5, 5-3
5. Middle Tennessee 6-6, 4-4
6. FIU 5-7, 2-6
7. Old Dominion 3-9, 2-6

WEST

1. UAB 10-3, 6-2
2. Southern Miss 8-4, 5-3
3. Louisiana Tech 7-5, 5-3
4. Rice 5-7, 4-4
5. North Texas 4-8, 3-5
6. UTSA 4-8, 2-6
7. UTEP 1-11, 0-8

C-USA CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

UAB over WKU

INDEPENDENTS

Army 6-6
BYU 7-5
Liberty 6-6
New Mexico State 2-10
Notre Dame 10-2
Connecticut 3-9
UMass 1-11

MAC

EAST

1. Buffalo 9-4, 6-2
2. Miami (Ohio) 7-5, 5-3
3. Ohio 7-5, 5-3
4. Kent State 5-7, 4-4
5. Bowling Green 2-10, 1-7
6. Akron 3-9, 0-8

WEST

1. Toledo 7-6, 6-2
2. Cent. Michigan 7-5, 5-3
3. Ball State 6-6, 5-3
4. West. Michigan 6-6, 5-3
5. Northern Illinois 4-8, 3-5
6. East. Michigan 4-8, 3-5

MAC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Buffalo over Toledo

MOUNTAIN WEST

MOUNTAIN

1. Boise State 11-2, 7-1
2. Wyoming 8-4, 6-2
3. Air Force 8-4, 5-3
4. Utah State 5-7, 4-4
5. Colorado State 4-8, 3-5
6. New Mexico 4-9, 1-7

WEST

1. Nevada 7-6, 5-3
2. San Diego State 7-5, 5-3
3. Hawaii 6-7, 4-4
4. Fresno State 5-7, 3-5
5. San Jose State 5-7, 3-5
6. UNLV 2-10, 2-6

MW CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Boise State over Nevada

PAC-12

NORTH

1. Oregon 11-2, 8-1
2. California 9-3, 6-3
3. Washington 8-4, 6-3
4. Stanford 6-6, 4-5
5. Oregon State 6-6, 4-5
6. Washington State 6-6, 3-6

SOUTH

1. USC 9-4, 7-2
2. Arizona State 8-4, 5-4
3. Utah 8-4, 5-4
4. UCLA 6-6, 3-6
5. Arizona 4-8, 2-7
6. Colorado 3-9, 1-8

PAC-12 CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Oregon over USC

SEC

EAST

1. Florida 11-2, 7-1
2. Georgia 10-2, 6-2
3. Tennessee 8-4, 5-3
4. Kentucky 7-5, 4-4
5. South Carolina 6-6, 3-5
6. Missouri 5-7, 2-6
7. Vanderbilt 3-9, 0-8

WEST

1. Alabama 12-1, 7-1
2. LSU 10-2, 6-2
3. Texas A&M 9-3, 5-3
4. Auburn 9-3, 5-3
5. Ole Miss 7-5, 4-4
6. Mississippi State 6-6, 2-6
7. Arkansas 3-9, 0-8

SEC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Alabama over Florida

SUN BELT

EAST

1. Appalachian State 9-4, 7-1
2. Georgia Southern 6-6, 5-3
3. Troy 5-7, 3-5
4. Georgia State 4-8, 3-5
5. Coastal Carolina 4-8, 3-5

WEST

1. Louisiana 11-2, 7-1
2. Arkansas State 7-5, 6-2
3. South Alabama 4-8, 3-5
4. ULM 3-9, 2-6
5. Texas State 2-10, 1-7

SUN BELT CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Louisiana over Appalachian State

ATHLON SPORTS

All-America Team

First-Team Offense

Travis Etienne

QUARTERBACK

Trevor Lawrence

6-6 • 220 • Jr. • Clemson

RUNNING BACK

Travis Etienne

5-10 • 210 • Sr. • Clemson

RUNNING BACK

Chuba Hubbard

6-0 • 201 • Jr. • Oklahoma State

ALL-PURPOSE

Rondale Moore

5-9 • 180 • So. • Purdue

WIDE RECEIVER

Ja'Marr Chase

6-1 • 200 • Jr. • LSU

WIDE RECEIVER

DeVonta Smith

6-1 • 175 • Sr. • Alabama

Alex Leatherwood

TIGHT END

Pat Freiermuth

6-5 • 259 • Jr. • Penn State

CENTER

Creed Humphrey

6-5 • 307 • Jr. • Oklahoma

OFFENSIVE LINE

Penei Sewell

6-6 • 330 • Jr. • Oregon

OFFENSIVE LINE

Wyatt Davis

6-4 • 315 • Jr. • Ohio State

OFFENSIVE LINE

Alex Leatherwood

Sr. • 6-6 • 310 • Alabama

OFFENSIVE LINE

Trey Smith

6-6 • 335 • Sr. • Tennessee

Etienne, Leatherwood: Paul Abell; Thibodeaux: Oregon Athletics

First-Team Defense

DEFENSIVE LINE

Marvin Wilson

6-5 • 310 • Sr. • Florida State

DEFENSIVE LINE

Kayvon Thibodeaux

6-5 • 250 • So. • Oregon

DEFENSIVE LINE

Gregory Rousseau

6-7 • 253 • So. • Miami

DEFENSIVE LINE

Levi Onwuzurike

6-3 • 288 • Sr. • Washington

LINEBACKER

Micah Parsons

6-3 • 244 • Jr. • Penn State

LINEBACKER

Dylan Moses

6-3 • 235 • Jr. • Alabama

LINEBACKER

Nick Bolton

6-0 • 232 • Jr. • Missouri

CORNERBACK

Derek Stingley Jr.

6-1 • 190 • So. • LSU

CORNERBACK

Patrick Surtain II

6-2 • 203 • Jr. • Alabama

Kayvon Thibodeaux

SAFETY

Richard LeCounte

5-11 • 190 • Sr. • Georgia

SAFETY

Jevon Holland

6-1 • 200 • Jr. • Oregon

First-Team Specialists

KICKER

Keith Duncan

6-1 • 200 • Jr. • Oregon

PUNTER

Max Duffy

6-1 • 185 • Sr. • Kentucky

KICK RETURNER

Ihmir Smith-Marsette

6-1 • 183 • Sr. • Iowa

PUNT RETURNER

Jaylen Waddle

5-10 • 182 • Jr. • Alabama

ATHLON SPORTS

All-America Team

Justin Fields

Rashod Bateman

Second Team

OFFENSE

QB	Justin Fields	6-3	228	Jr.	Ohio State
RB	Najee Harris	6-2	230	Sr.	Alabama
RB	Jaret Patterson	5-9	195	Jr.	Buffalo
AP	Kenneth Gainwell	5-11	191	So.	Memphis
WR	Rashod Bateman	6-2	210	Jr.	Minnesota
WR	Tylan Wallace	6-0	185	Sr.	Oklahoma State
TE	Charlie Kolar	6-6	252	Jr.	Iowa State
C	Drake Jackson	6-2	310	Sr.	Kentucky
OL	Samuel Cosmi	6-7	300	Jr.	Texas
OL	Cole Van Lanen	6-5	312	Sr.	Wisconsin
OL	Alaric Jackson	6-6	320	Sr.	Iowa
OL	Darian Kinnard	6-5	347	Jr.	Kentucky

Kenneth Gainwell

Shaun Wade

DEFENSE

DL	Carlos Basham Jr.	6-5	275	Sr.	Wake Forest
DL	Jaylen Twyman	6-2	290	Jr.	Pitt
DL	Tyler Davis	6-2	295	So.	Clemson
DL	Quincy Roche	6-4	235	Sr.	Miami
LB	Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah	6-2	216	So.	Notre Dame
LB	Hamilcar Rashed Jr.	6-4	238	Sr.	Oregon State
LB	K.J. Britt	6-0	243	Sr.	Auburn
CB	Shaun Wade	6-1	195	Jr.	Ohio State
CB	Elijah Molden	5-10	191	Sr.	Washington
S	Trevon Moehrig	6-2	208	Jr.	TCU
S	JaCoby Stevens	6-1	228	Sr.	LSU

SPECIALISTS

K	Nick Sciba	5-9	190	Jr.	Wake Forest
P	Blake Hayes	6-6	230	Sr.	Illinois
KR	Joshua Youngblood	5-10	180	So.	Kansas State
PR	Avery Williams	5-9	188	Sr.	Boise State

Fields, Wade: Bruce Schwartzman; Bateman: Minnesota Athletics; Gainwell: Memphis Athletics

Sam Howell

Third Team

OFFENSE

QB	Sam Howell	6-2	225	So.	North Carolina
RB	Kennedy Brooks	5-11	214	Jr.	Oklahoma
RB	Kylin Hill	5-11	215	Sr.	Mississippi State
AP	Max Borghi	5-10	197	Jr.	Washington State
WR	Jaylen Waddle	5-10	182	Jr.	Alabama
WR	Justyn Ross	6-4	205	Jr.	Clemson
TE	Kyle Pitts	6-6	239	Jr.	Florida
C	Tyler Linderbaum	6-3	286	So.	Iowa
OL	Abraham Lucas	6-7	324	Jr.	Washington State
OL	Alijah Vera-Tucker	6-4	310	Jr.	USC
OL	Rashawn Slater	6-3	305	Sr.	Northwestern
OL	Jackson Carman	6-5	345	Jr.	Clemson

Kylin Hill

Joseph Ossai

DEFENSE

DL	Tyler Shelvin	6-3	346	Jr.	LSU
DL	Jay Tufele	6-3	305	Jr.	USC
DL	Darius Stills	6-1	282	Sr.	West Virginia
DL	Aidan Hutchinson	6-6	278	Jr.	Michigan
LB	Carlton Martial	5-10	216	Jr.	Troy
LB	Joseph Ossai	6-4	245	Jr.	Texas
LB	Rayshard Ashby	5-10	237	Sr.	Virginia Tech
CB	Caleb Farley	6-2	207	Jr.	Virginia Tech
CB	Eric Stokes	6-1	185	Jr.	Georgia
S	Paris Ford	6-0	190	Jr.	Pitt
S	Kolby Harvell-Peel	6-0	210	Jr.	Oklahoma State

SPECIALISTS

K	Riley Patterson	6-0	190	Sr.	Memphis
P	Adam Korsak	6-1	184	Sr.	Rutgers
KR	Savon Scarver	5-11	180	Sr.	Utah State
PR	Christian Tutt	5-11	192	Jr.	Auburn

Howell: Andy Mead/ISI via Getty; Hill: Harrison McClary; Ossai: Tim Clark; Chrisman: AP

THE 20TH ANNUAL ATHLON SPORTS UNIT RANKINGS

Dax Hollifield

ACC

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
BOSTON COLLEGE	14	6	10	2	11	7	14
CLEMSON	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
DUKE	10	13	14	9	7	12	8
FLORIDA STATE	8	4	3	11	4	6	4
GEORGIA TECH	13	7	11	14	14	13	10
LOUISVILLE	4	2	4	8	13	11	12
MIAMI	3	8	5	12	2	9	7
NORTH CAROLINA	2	3	2	5	10	4	5
NC STATE	11	5	8	4	9	5	13
PITTSBURGH	7	9	9	7	3	10	3
SYRACUSE	9	12	12	13	12	14	9
VIRGINIA	12	14	13	6	8	3	6
VIRGINIA TECH	6	11	7	3	5	1	2
WAKE FOREST	5	10	6	10	6	8	11

AMERICAN

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
CINCINNATI	5	3	9	2	1	4	1
EAST CAROLINA	4	10	5	11	11	10	9
HOUSTON	8	7	2	4	7	9	8
MEMPHIS	3	1	3	1	3	2	3
NAVY	11	6	11	8	6	6	7
SMU	1	11	4	6	8	5	10
TEMPLE	7	8	6	5	5	8	5
TULANE	9	4	8	7	4	3	6
TULSA	6	5	7	9	10	11	11
UCF	2	2	1	3	2	1	2
USF	10	9	10	10	9	7	4

Kenneth Gainwell

Tylan Wallace

BIG 12

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
BAYLOR	4	6	6	4	9	8	6
IOWA STATE	2	4	4	7	1	1	1
KANSAS	10	5	8	10	10	10	10
KANSAS STATE	8	10	10	9	8	6	7
OKLAHOMA	3	2	2	1	2	3	5
OKLAHOMA STATE	5	1	1	2	5	2	4
TCU	7	8	9	5	6	5	3
TEXAS	1	3	3	3	3	4	2
TEXAS TECH	6	7	5	6	7	7	8
WEST VIRGINIA	9	9	7	8	4	9	9

Hollifield: AP; Gainwell: Memphis Athletics; Wallace: Oklahoma State Athletics

BIG TEN

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ILLINOIS	11	12	11	7	13	8	12
INDIANA	5	7	6	11	8	10	8
IOWA	10	4	3	5	5	7	6
MARYLAND	12	13	8	13	14	14	13
MICHIGAN	7	3	5	6	3	4	4
MICHIGAN STATE	13	8	10	10	7	6	10
MINNESOTA	2	6	4	4	10	11	7
NEBRASKA	4	9	12	8	11	9	3
NORTHWESTERN	8	10	13	9	9	5	9
OHIO STATE	1	2	1	1	1	2	1
PENN STATE	3	1	7	3	2	1	5
PURDUE	9	14	2	12	6	12	11
RUTGERS	14	11	14	14	12	13	14
WISCONSIN	6	5	9	2	4	3	2

Journey Brown

Victor Tucker

CONFERENCE USA

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
CHARLOTTE	2	4	1	6	4	10	5
FAU	1	2	6	5	12	2	7
FIU	11	12	7	3	9	7	3
LOUISIANA TECH	7	5	3	4	7	11	11
MARSHALL	6	3	10	2	3	6	4
MTSU	3	10	11	8	13	12	12
NORTH TEXAS	12	7	4	12	11	9	9
OLD DOMINION	13	13	13	14	6	8	8
RICE	10	14	9	10	8	4	10
SOUTHERN MISS	4	8	8	7	5	5	6
UAB	5	1	2	9	2	1	1
UTEP	14	11	14	13	14	14	14
UTSA	9	9	12	11	10	13	13
WKU	8	6	5	1	1	3	2

MID-AMERICAN

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
AKRON	8	12	10	12	11	12	10
BALL STATE	2	3	4	4	9	4	1
BOWLING GREEN	12	6	11	11	12	11	11
BUFFALO	4	1	12	1	1	1	5
CENTRAL MICHIGAN	11	4	1	9	2	5	3
EASTERN MICHIGAN	7	11	7	7	8	10	8
KENT STATE	1	9	8	8	10	8	9
MIAMI (OHIO)	3	7	6	5	3	7	2
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	9	10	9	10	4	6	12
OHIO	10	5	5	6	6	3	4
TOLEDO	5	2	3	2	7	9	7
WESTERN MICHIGAN	6	8	2	3	5	2	6

JaCorey Sullivan

Brown: Bruce Schwartzman; Tucker: Charlotte Athletics; Sullivan: CMU Athletics

Cameron Thomas

MOUNTAIN WEST

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
AIR FORCE	2	3	12	1	5	2	11
BOISE STATE	1	1	1	9	3	1	2
COLORADO STATE	6	9	3	12	4	7	8
FRESNO STATE	10	5	10	5	7	3	7
HAWAII	3	7	6	4	11	9	4
NEVADA	5	6	4	8	6	8	5
NEW MEXICO	11	11	9	10	10	10	10
SAN DIEGO STATE	12	8	8	3	1	5	1
SAN JOSE STATE	9	12	2	11	9	11	6
UNLV	7	4	5	7	12	12	12
UTAH STATE	8	10	7	6	8	6	9
WYOMING	4	2	11	2	2	4	3

PAC-12

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ARIZONA	7	9	9	7	12	7	9
ARIZONA STATE	2	11	8	8	6	6	3
CALIFORNIA	3	6	11	9	5	3	5
COLORADO	12	8	12	12	8	9	11
OREGON	8	1	3	1	1	2	1
OREGON STATE	10	4	7	11	9	4	7
STANFORD	4	12	5	6	10	10	6
UCLA	5	10	10	10	7	12	8
USC	1	3	1	4	2	5	4
UTAH	6	7	4	3	4	8	12
WASHINGTON	9	5	6	5	3	1	2
WASHINGTON STATE	11	2	2	2	11	11	10

Penei Sewell

Jordan Davis

SEC

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ALABAMA	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
ARKANSAS	7	7	8	12	14	14	13
AUBURN	4	9	5	11	6	2	9
FLORIDA	2	11	3	7	3	9	3
GEORGIA	1	2	4	4	1	1	2
KENTUCKY	9	4	13	2	11	5	5
LSU	10	10	2	8	4	6	1
MISSOURI	13	12	11	13	8	4	8
MISS. STATE	6	3	12	6	10	12	12
OLE MISS	8	6	7	10	12	10	11
SOUTH CAROLINA	11	13	10	9	9	11	6
TENNESSEE	12	8	9	3	7	7	7
TEXAS A&M	5	5	6	5	5	8	10
VANDERBILT	14	14	14	14	13	13	14

SUN BELT

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
APPALACHIAN STATE	1	2	2	1	1	3	1
ARKANSAS STATE	3	6	4	3	7	7	7
COASTAL CAROLINA	5	8	9	5	4	6	10
GEORGIA STATE	9	7	3	4	6	5	8
GEORGIA SOUTHERN	4	5	10	7	3	2	9
LOUISIANA	2	1	5	2	2	4	2
SOUTH ALABAMA	7	9	8	9	10	8	4
TEXAS STATE	8	10	7	10	9	10	6
TROY	6	3	1	6	5	1	5
ULM	10	4	6	8	8	9	3

Shaun Jolly

C. Thomas: Peter Brouillet; Sewell: Oregon Athletics; Davis: Tom DiPace; Jolly: App State Athletics

NATIONAL UNIT RANKINGS

Quarterbacks	Running Backs	Receivers
1. Clemson	1. Alabama	1. USC
2. Ohio State	2. Clemson	2. Ohio State
3. North Carolina	3. Okla. State	3. Alabama
4. Texas	4. Georgia	4. Clemson
5. Iowa State	5. Oregon	5. LSU
6. Oklahoma	6. Penn State	6. Okla. State
7. USC	7. Buffalo	7. North Carolina
8. Notre Dame	8. Louisville	8. Oklahoma
9. Minnesota	9. North Carolina	9. Purdue
10. SMU	10. Oklahoma	10. Florida

Xavier Thomas

Offensive Line	Defensive Line	Linebackers	Defensive Backs
1. Alabama	1. Clemson	1. Georgia	1. LSU
2. Ohio State	2. Georgia	2. Penn State	2. Oregon
3. Oklahoma	3. Ohio State	3. Auburn	3. Georgia
4. Kentucky	4. Miami	4. Alabama	4. Washington
5. Notre Dame	5. Alabama	5. Virginia Tech	5. Ohio State
6. Tennessee	6. Pittsburgh	6. Ohio State	6. Florida
7. Wisconsin	7. Oregon	7. Missouri	7. Clemson
8. Penn State	8. Penn State	8. Washington	8. Wisconsin
9. Minnesota	9. Florida	9. Wisconsin	9. Cincinnati
10. Georgia	10. LSU	10. Clemson	10. Virginia Tech

X. Thomas: Paul Abell

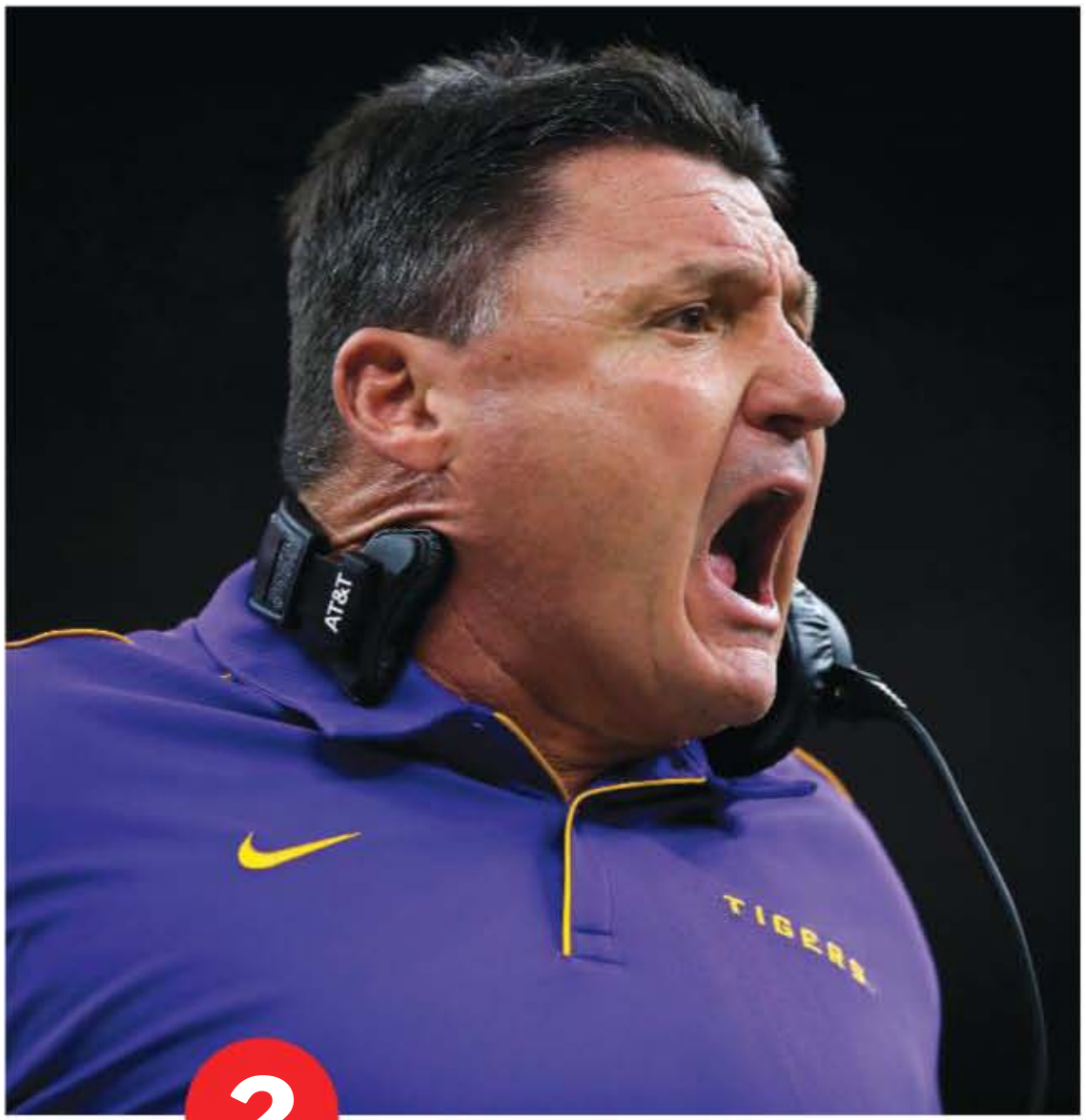
15 Things to Watch in 2020

BY MATT HINTON

1 CLEMSON *Dynasty Watch?*

The flip side of LSU's coronation was a sobering night on the opposite sideline, where Clemson was on the verge of making some serious history of its own: back-to-back national titles, a 30-game winning streak, outright dynasty status — all of the momentum of the previous two years, knocked flat in the course of a few hours. Still, in contrast to the climactic scene for LSU, for Clemson the loss played out more like a single episode in a long-running series. By this time next year, there's a good chance it will rate as a fleeting glitch in one of the great runs of the past few decades.

Again, the case for Clemson as preseason favorite to win it all begins and ends with golden-boy QB **Trevor Lawrence**, now a seasoned vet entering (presumably) his last season on campus before cashing in at the next level; he and senior RB **Travis Etienne** are the first pair of teammates to return to school after both finished in the top 10 in Heisman voting since USC's Matt Leinart and Reggie Bush in 2005. But the high-wattage backfield is only the tip of the iceberg: Between WR Justyn Ross, OL Jackson Carman, CB Derion Kendrick and a loaded defensive line, there's first-round talent everywhere you look, as well as depth reflective of Clemson's emergence as a national recruiting power. (Consider the 2020 class, Dabo Swinney's most touted to date. Lawrence's heir apparent, Californian D.J. Uiagalelei, is already in the fold, arriving in January as one of 10 top-100 prospects in the incoming crop from seven different states plus the District of Columbia — all of whom will likely have to settle for rotational roles this fall, at best.) At this point, the ACC championship is almost an afterthought, and the end of the Tigers' five-year playoff streak is nowhere in sight. The only question, legacy-wise, is how many more of those opportunities will pay off with the ultimate prize.



Etienne, Lawrence: Paul Abell; Orgeron: Todd Kirkland/Icon via AP

2 LSU's Championship Hangover

LSU was indisputably the best team in college football in 2019, especially at the end. But limiting the designation of "best" to a single season doesn't quite do **Ed Orgeron** & Co.'s out-of-the-blue title run justice. With their championship romp over Clemson, the Tigers rested their case as one of the best teams ever. The 2020 Tigers? To be determined, to put it mildly.

In addition to face-of-the-program quarterback Joe Burrow — the Heisman Trophy winner, No. 1 overall pick in the NFL Draft and arguably most valuable player in LSU history — the mass offseason exodus from Baton Rouge included nine early entrants for the draft, leaving LSU without the majority of last year's starting lineup.

It also included two prominent assistants, co-offensive coordinator Joe Brady (the new OC for the Carolina Panthers) and defense coordinator Dave Aranda (the new head coach at Baylor), who oversaw their respective units. Virtually everyone who had the opportunity to leave for greener pastures took it.

Not that the cupboard is bare. The depth chart is stacked with the usual concentration of rising blue-chip talent, headlined by a pair of returning All-Americans, WR Ja'Marr Chase and CB Derek Stingley Jr. And then there's Brady's counterpart on the offensive side of the ball, Steve Ensminger, who's still on board as the chief play-caller. The heir apparent behind center, redshirt junior Myles Brennan, spent the past two years as Burrow's understudy and should benefit from the continuity of having Ensminger in his ear. Ultimately, though, he should also benefit from what figures to be the most relaxed grading curve for an LSU quarterback in ages — no one in their right mind can expect the revamped offense to pick up where the highest-scoring attack in FBS history left off. As long as the championship buzz lingers, whatever comes next is gravy.

3 ALABAMA STILL ROLLING

It's a testament to the year-in, year-out juggernaut Nick Saban has built at Alabama that the kind of season most places would celebrate as a banner year — 11 wins, lopsided victory in a New Year's Day bowl, top-10 finish in the polls — qualifies as a letdown. By Bama standards, though, it's hard to spin 2019 any other way. Despite cruising through the rest of the schedule, the Tide lost their only really meaningful games, November barn-burners against LSU and Auburn, ceding the SEC crown and missing the playoff for the first time. That snapped a five-year run of conference and/or national titles.

If you were expecting this to turn into a murky forecast squinting at the end of the dynasty on the horizon, though, sorry to disappoint: A marginally less invincible version of Bama is still Bama, and there's still every reason to believe the Tide will be back in the thick of the national race in 2020. The Tide's talent level and depth remain the envy of college football outside of maybe Columbus, Ohio, and Athens, Ga. In the midst of the annual winter exodus for the NFL, three potential All-Americans on offense — RB Najee Harris, WR DeVonta Smith and OL Alex Leatherwood — opted to pass on the draft in favor of returning for their senior year; so did LB Dylan Moses, a breakout candidate who missed all of 2019 due to a torn ACL, and DL LaBryan Ray, who went on the shelf in September. The handful of freshmen thrown into the fire as Day One starters (DT DJ Dale, LBs Shane Lee and Christian Harris) are known quantities. And Tua Tagovailoa's understudy, Mac Jones, looked like a natural successor in his audition.

Between Jones, redshirt freshman Taulia Tagovailoa, and massively hyped spring enrollee Bryce Young, the next championship Alabama quarterback is likely already on campus. But with expectations running as high as ever, whoever emerges as QB1 will not have the luxury of being graded on a curve.

4

NEXT MAN UP AT OKLAHOMA

Three years in, Lincoln Riley's tenure as Oklahoma's head coach has already produced one of the most prolific lines of quarterback succession on record: Baker Mayfield, Kyler Murray, Jalen Hurts. Collectively, that trio accounted for 15,479 total yards, 156 touchdowns, two Heisman trophies, a 36–6 record, back-to-back-to-back Big 12 titles, three consecutive trips to the College Football Playoff and a burgeoning reputation for Riley — still only 36 — as one of the game's preeminent offensive minds.

Given Riley's track record, the heir apparent behind center, redshirt freshman **Spencer Rattler**, is an automatic Heisman candidate this fall despite having yet to take a relevant snap at the college level. Rattler was a five-star recruit; he has as much time in Riley's system as Murray had before taking the reins two years ago and more than Hurts had last year; he'll be operating behind a proven O-line, while throwing to an up-and-coming fleet of young receivers with blue-chip pedigrees in their own right. (In fact, the biggest obstacle between Rattler and instant stardom may be that he has yet to officially secure the starting job over redshirt sophomore Tanner Mordecai.)

OU's playoff busts loom larger for Rattler than any statistical benchmarks. At this point, the numbers are baked in to expectations. When the same can no longer be said for a perfunctory exit in the semis, it will qualify as a genuine breakthrough.

5 GEORGIA'S *Offensive Overhaul*

Usually, an offense starting over from scratch is a major red flag. For Georgia's offense, it's the entire point. The 2019 attack punched well below its blue-chip weight class: In five regular-season games vs. ranked opponents, the Bulldogs averaged just 19.4 points, a glaring contrast to the fully realized spread passing attacks at Alabama and LSU. The defense carried the day as far as the SEC Championship Game, at which point a blowout loss to LSU made the chasm too large to ignore.

Big change was inevitable, beginning with the departure of much-maligned offensive coordinator James Coley. His replacement: former Southern Miss head coach Todd Monken, back in the college game after four years in the NFL with a mandate to bring the Bulldogs into the 21st century. He inherits a lineup that's typically long on talent — the two-deep is stacked with five-star recruits, as usual, including breakout candidates at running back (Zamir White), receiver (George Pickens) and right tackle (Jamaree Salyer) — but short on experience. At QB, Georgia hit the free-agent market for grad transfer Jamie Newman, a dual-threat type who went 10–6 at Wake Forest but has almost no track record against the kind of elite defenses that will define his lone season at UGA. It's impossible to promise that a lineup with that many question marks is going to improve, but for a program that lives in play-off-or-bust mode, the expectations only run in one direction.

6 PENN STATE *Lying in Wait?*

These are fat times for Penn State. After an extended run of scandal and mediocrity, the last four years under James Franklin have been the Nittany Lions' best since the mid-1990s, yielding 42 wins, three top-10 finishes, a conference title and a sense of forward momentum that had been sorely missing.

In a vacuum, cracking the playoff field would be the next logical step, and the 2020 edition — a veteran outfit led by an incumbent quarterback (Sean Clifford) and arguably the best defensive player in the country (LB **Micah Parsons**) — would be in ideal position to take it.

Unfortunately for them, the Lions don't play in a vacuum. They play in the Big Ten's East division, where the road to nirvana runs directly through the perennial powerhouse that is Ohio State, owner of the last three B1G championships. The Buckeyes are thinking about the next logical step, too: After gacking away a golden opportunity in last year's semifinal loss to Clemson, they're on a mission is to win it all in what will almost certainly be QB Justin Fields' final college season. The key date in both teams' seasons will be an Oct. 24 showdown in Happy Valley, site of a program-making upset over OSU in 2016 and a razor-thin Penn State loss in '18. As usual, the winner there will have the inside track on winning the East and, assuming both sides will likely be favored in the rest of their games, punching their ticket to the College Football Playoff. Unlike the Buckeyes, though, Penn State can't afford to assume that championship window is going to remain open indefinitely.

Rattler. Harbaugh: Tim Clark: Parsons: Bruce Schwartzman

7 MICHIGAN
MORE OF THE SAME?

To listen to his critics, you might get the impression **Jim Harbaugh's** tenure at Michigan has been an exercise in futility. Not quite: Compared to the wreck of a program he inherited in 2014, Harbaugh's Wolverines have made real strides — four top-20 finishes in five years, late-November playoff pushes in 2016 and '18 — and aren't in any danger of regressing to the mediocrity of the Rodriguez-Hoke era any time soon. To the extent that he was hired to make conference championships, major bowl games and top-10 finishes realistic expectations again, mission accomplished. To the extent that he was hired specifically to beat Ohio State, on the other hand, the mission has turned into an albatross that has come to define his tenure.

Eight straight losses vs. the Buckeyes (the last five under Harbaugh) are bad enough. Worse, as the initial burst of optimism that followed Harbaugh's arrival has receded, the gap has grown wider: The last two editions of the rivalry have unfolded as start-to-finish blowouts that made Michigan look like it belonged in a different weight class altogether. Which is how, in Year Six, the vibe in Ann Arbor has settled into an uneasy status quo where 10-win seasons are standard, yet the angst is as palpable as ever. Even against a stiff schedule, there are plenty of reasons to expect the 2020 team to be back in a January bowl game, beginning with a typically rugged front seven on defense. But barring a revelatory turn from the new quarterback, junior Dylan McCaffrey, the outlook against another loaded outfit in Columbus is just as bleak. Until that dynamic changes, the din surrounding Harbaugh's future can only get louder.

8 NOTRE DAME
How Good Is Good Enough?

After 10 years in South Bend, Brian Kelly is on the verge of some major milestones: At 92 wins, he's already passed the legendary Frank Leahy (87 wins) on Notre Dame's all-time list and, barring unforeseen disaster, should find himself cruising past Ara Parseghian (95) and Lou Holtz (100) this fall. The top spot, occupied for nearly a century by Knute Rockne (105), is within sight in 2021. Of course, Kelly has coached in more games at this point than any other Irish coach except Holtz, who ranks second to Kelly in all-time losses at Notre Dame as well. But it's also true that, at 33–6, the last three years represented easily the best extended Domer run since Holtz's early-'90s heyday.

If it hasn't quite felt that way, there's an easy answer why: an abysmal record in big games. Altogether, Kelly's teams have struggled against opponents that finished in the AP Top 10, with nine straight losses

and a pair of laughers with the national championship on the line in 2012 (vs. Alabama) and 2018 (vs. Clemson). The 2019 team dropped its two prove-it dates at Georgia and Michigan. The 2020 edition, led by steady QB Ian Book, should get its opportunities to flip the script against Wisconsin and Clemson, which visits South Bend on Nov. 7. As it stands now, the next Irish win in that category will be the first.

9 USC
HELTON FEELS THE HEAT

If you put down money at some point last fall on USC introducing Urban Meyer as its next head coach in 2020, tough luck: **Clay Helton** is still here. Not that it was a bad bet. A losing record in 2018 put Helton squarely on the hot seat, where he remained throughout a sluggish, 8–5 turn last year that won over zero new converts. Attendance at the LA Coliseum continued to slump; a shockingly thin recruiting class ranked near the bottom of the Pac-12 rankings. Urban is available. But amid broader campus turmoil, there was little appetite for more turnover in a year that had already seen the introduction of a new university president and athletic director and even less appetite to pay a reportedly steep buyout to a coach who is, after all, 16 games above .500 over the last four years.

And there is obvious potential in a lineup that returns largely intact. The offense, especially, is poised to ignite. Sophomore QB Kedon Slovis is a star in the making. Future pros Amon-Ra St. Brown and Tyler Vaughns have more career receptions (326) and yards (4,187) between them than any other returning duo in the country. Defensively, 12 of the top 13 tacklers are back from a young, injury-ravaged group looking to take a big step forward under new coordinator Todd Orlando. And for all the alarm over the Trojans' recruiting decline, when healthy, the core talent on hand is easily the class of a wide-open Pac-12 South. If Helton is going to make it to 2021, a division crown may be the bare minimum.

Helton: Peter Brouillet; ND: Walter G. Arce Sr.

11 LONE STAR LETHARGY

Texas: not quite back. On the heels of a promising 10–4 mark in 2018 — capped by a Sugar Bowl upset over Georgia that famously prompted QB Sam Ehlinger to declare "We're baaaack!" in a post-game interview — the 2019 Longhorns failed to deliver, plummeting from the preseason Top 10 en route to an 8–5 finish that recalled the lame-duck years at the end of the Mack Brown era. How was it possible, in Year Three under head coach Tom Herman, that the Horns once again found themselves looking up in the in-state hierarchy at Baylor, of all places?

The architect of the resurgence in Waco, Matt Rhule, left in January for the top job with the Carolina Panthers. For Herman, though, as well as for his even more lavishly compensated counterpart at Texas A&M, Jimbo Fisher, the question still looms. Texas and A&M rank first and second nationally in terms of total football revenue, according to *USA Today*, and, on paper, 2020 sets up as a climactic year for them both. Herman and Fisher both will oversee veteran outfits stocked primarily with their own recruits; both will return a solid majority of last year's production; both will be led by entrenched senior quarterbacks (Ehlinger at UT, Kellen Mond at A&M) with next-level potential. Both schedules offer a path to national relevance well into November, and possibly beyond. As much as their respective programs have invested in building a serious contender, anything less will unfold as another very expensive letdown.

10 NEBRASKA
Stuck in Neutral?

Forget the hype: Not even the most pie-eyed Nebraska fans actually expected Scott Frost to restore the Cornhuskers' beleaguered national rep overnight. Two years in, though, it is safe to say the rebuilding plan is behind schedule. At 9–15, Frost is the first head coach to oversee back-to-back losing seasons in Lincoln since 1960-61. The 2019 team, anointed preseason favorite in the Big Ten West, unraveled down the stretch, losing five of its last six while watching three divisions rivals — Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota — surge into the top 15 in the final AP poll. The Gophers, not the Huskers, emerged as the league's ascendant program under third-year coach P.J. Fleck, making Nebraska's ongoing mediocrity that much harder to swallow.

If there's hope in Year Three, it's in the hands of junior QB **Adrian Martinez**, who significantly regressed last year as a passer but whose athleticism is ideally suited to Frost's spread-to-run philosophy. Sophomore RB/WR Wan'Dale Robinson is a breakout candidate after finishing second on the team in all-purpose yards as a true freshman. The offensive line returns intact. The schedule is backloaded for a fast start. Barring a disaster, Frost isn't in any danger of going anywhere any time soon. But if Nebraska isn't bowl-eligible heading into a Halloween trip to Ohio State, it will be in danger of missing a bowl game for the fourth year in a row. At which point a fan base that was promised success might be forced to wonder just how long it's

12 PAC-12
Playoff or Bust?

The Pac-12 wasn't represented in the playoff in 2019, extending its drought to three years and counting, but at least it took a couple steps in the right direction. Utah emerged as a viable playoff contender right up to the final weekend of the regular season, driving the best TV ratings for the Pac-12 Championship Game since 2014. The winner of that game, Oregon, went on to win the Rose Bowl and claim the best finish by a Pac-12 team in the AP poll (5th) since 2016. The Ducks are only a competent quarterback away from making national noise again.

That's where the league's prospects for optimism come to an end. On the field, the product remained mired in mediocrity: Aside from the division champs, only one other team (USC) even managed a winning record in conference play, where two-thirds of the league came in at 4-5 or 3-6. Washington regressed, losing five games and arguably the league's most respected head coach, Chris Petersen, who abruptly resigned in December. He was followed on the way out by Colorado's Mel Tucker and Washington State's Mike Leach, who left for rebuilding projects at Michigan State and Mississippi State, respectively.

The best-case scenario for reversing the trend is a sustained resurgence by the SoCal schools to balance what looks like a relatively healthy Oregon-Washington rivalry in the North. In the meantime, the absence of a marquee program threatens to keep the league out of sight, out of mind.

Martinez: Tim Clark: Clemson: Paul Abell: Schiano: Donald Page

13

All-Clemson Conference, *Continued*

Where the Pac-12 lacks a national standard bearer, the ACC has the opposite problem: The gap between Clemson and the rest of the league is a mile wide and only getting wider. The Tigers have won five straight conference titles and 22 straight conference games. In 2018, only one other ACC team cracked the final AP poll. (Syracuse, at No. 23.) In 2019, no other team even came close.

The most tradition-laden programs, Florida State and Miami, are in ongoing slumps, with each side now on its third head coach in the last six years. The Coastal Division as a whole has posed no threat, sending seven different reps to the slaughter in the ACC Championship Game in the last seven years. (They're 0–7, the last three of those losses coming by at least 32 points apiece.) If any team is poised to fill the void in 2020, it's North Carolina, which gave Clemson a rare scare last year in a 21–20 decision in Chapel Hill and returns one of the best young QBs in the nation, sophomore Sam Howell. There's also Virginia Tech, which salvaged a respectable finish \last year after making the switch to QB Hendon Hooker, and potentially Miami, which took a big swing in the grad-transfer market on ex-Houston QB D'Eriq King.

The reality is that Clemson is likely to roll through the conference schedule again, with the only real obstacle to another 13–0 regular season coming in a November trip to Notre Dame. Until further notice, everyone else is playing for second place.

14

AAC *ON THE RISE*

The American Athletic Conference's "Power 6" campaign hasn't exactly caught on as a slogan, but the results are beginning to speak for themselves. Four AAC teams cracked the final AP poll in 2019, one more than the Big 12 (3) and more than the Pac-12 (2) and ACC (1) combined. That quartet included the top-ranked "Group of 5" team, Memphis, which claimed its first-ever conference title and third Top 25 finish in six years; Cincinnati, which won 11 games for the second year in a row; and Central Florida, which followed up its program-defining, 25-game winning streak in 2017-18 by finishing a mere 10–3 with a true freshman quarterback. Along with Navy (11–2) and SMU (10–3), the top half of the AAC offered as compelling and competitive a race as any league in the country.

Most telling of all: Success did not result in an offseason stampede of head coaches hoping to strike it rich at a Power 5 program while the iron was hot. Only one AAC head coach, Memphis' Mike Norvell, made the leap, agreeing to take on the rebuilding job at Florida State. As for Cincinnati's Luke Fickell, UCF's Josh Heupel, Navy's Ken Niumatalolo and SMU's Sonny Dykes, the grass at a more high-profile school with no immediate prospects of competing for a championship is not necessarily greener. And while that may not hold true for all of them over the next few years, that kind of stability at the top does bode well for keeping the AAC at the front of the non-power pack. The longer that remains true, the less relevant that distinction will be.

15

RAISING **RUTGERS** FROM ROCK BOTTOM

At the time, **Greg Schiano's** tenure at Rutgers from 2001-11 was hailed as a minor miracle — by decade's end, he'd transformed a sleepy afterthought of a program into a reliable winner, one with enough newfound cachet to land on the right side of the realignment divide in the Big Ten. In retrospect, there was nothing minor about it. Within a few years of Schiano's departure for the NFL, the Scarlet Knights quickly regressed to doormat status, taking up permanent residence at the bottom of the B1G standings and in punchlines across the country. Since their last conference win, in November 2017, the Knights have lost 21 straight by an average margin of nearly four touchdowns per game.

In many ways, the outfit Schiano inherited when he agreed to return to Piscataway last December is as hopeless as the sad-sack situation he took over nearly 20 years ago. Priority One: Improving the most consistently overmatched talent base of any Power 5 team. That effort begins in his own backyard, where Schiano, a New Jersey native, has emphasized rebuilding relationships with local high school coaches who felt neglected by the previous staff. At least there's a credible case to be made that the guy in charge knows what the process of building from rubble looks like.

Trevor Lawrence

Has Something to Prove

Here's a thought that should terrify the rest of college football: Lawrence — who is 25–1 as the starter at Clemson — is out for redemption

This season, Trevor Lawrence is clearly the face (not to mention the flowing mane) of college football. In Lawrence's two seasons at Clemson, the Tigers have lost only one game, going 29–1 while winning one national title and playing for another. As he builds on that remarkable record (and tries to win a second national title), Lawrence will also be padding these sparkling career numbers: 6,945 passing yards, 66 touchdowns (to only 12 interceptions), a 65.5 percent completion rate, 740 rushing yards and 10 rushing TDs. In the offseason, Lawrence reflected on the disappointing 42–25 loss to LSU in the championship game and looked ahead to what will almost certainly be his final season in college before he takes his talents to some lucky NFL team that spends 2020 Tanking for Trevor.

Did it take a little time to get your equilibrium back after the national championship loss, or did you put it behind you right away?

I think anytime after a game like that especially, it takes a little while to let it sink in and kind of move on. It took me a little while, especially just you know, the way it happened, in the national championship, and you work all year to get there. So it's hard, especially knowing that you're not going to play with some of those guys again. But yeah, I mean probably a couple of weeks, and then you start to get back to, 'OK, let's get started again.'

Have you looked back at that game and decided if it was what LSU did, or if maybe you weren't as crisp as usual?

It was a combination of a lot of things, and when I say we did our best, I meant like we prepared our best, good effort, all of those things. I didn't play my best. That's not what I meant. But yeah, I mean it's a lot of things. LSU played well. They did some things defensively that were really good. And then also it just wasn't my best game. Missed some throws. Down the stretch I missed some big throws. So it comes down to that. And then a lot of little details that are just things you only know if you're a part of this offense. So just little things and just overall not syncing up well, offense and defense together. It just wasn't our night.

What did you learn from that adversity that you think maybe you needed to learn or that is going to help you moving forward to be a better player?

I feel like through my two years I've just been through like every different situation you could be in. Just getting more and more perspective I think is the biggest thing. Going through some adversity, I hadn't gone through much, it's the only game I've lost since I've been here. So it definitely gives you some more perspective, and you appreciate all of the little things. And it just makes you want to go back and work even harder to get back there and have a chance at that moment again.

Is it a different feeling for you this year, not only coming off a loss but also a poor perfor-

Clemson Athletics

mance for you individually against LSU?

I mean yeah, like I said, it just makes you want to go out there and earn it even more. It all starts over, which is a good feeling. Everyone's already looking at next year, so we feel like we're back in the fight and can work to get where we want to now. So just taking it day by day. I mean it's going to be a long offseason, a lot of time to get ready. So just taking it one day at a time and maximizing each day.

What have you done to improve this offseason?

Just in the weight room. Keep getting stronger, gaining weight. I think I say that every year. That's always something for me that's important. And then just leadership, just being a better leader. I think I did a good job last year, but just kind of upping that role a little bit as an older guy now, an upperclassmen. So just being a better leader. I've always worked hard to try to be the example, but just be a little more outspoken and all of those things.

What was your reaction when you heard running back Travis Etienne was returning, and what does he bring to this offense?

Obviously I was happy. We had talked a little bit, I can't remember exactly when. We had just kind of had some private conversations before he decided what he was gonna do. So I kind of thought he might come back. But I wasn't sure. I thought he'd end up last second deciding he was leaving. But man, it's awesome to have him back, obviously. It speaks for itself what he's done. But just a great guy. I think it's a good opportunity for him to build his leadership. Everyone's looking at him now, especially on this team. He's a big leader for us. I think it'll be good for him to come back, grow a little bit more, work on his game and also have another chance to go win a national championship.

Have you started thinking about your own future beyond Clemson and this season?

I think about it a little bit and the possibilities of the future, but especially not now. Not too much now. We're getting back to work. That something you can think about when the season's over. For me, I mean I've still got at least one more year, maybe two. So it's still a ways away. You kind of have to start thinking about things, but also being smart and just being in the moment and really enjoying the now, too.

> **"It all starts over, which is a good feeling. Everyone's already looking at next year, so we feel like we're back in the fight and can work to get where we want to now."**
>
> **— TREVOR LAWRENCE**

What's your academic status?

I'll graduate in December, so that'll kind of leave it open for whatever's the best for me.

Going into this season, how do you balance putting last season behind you but also using the sting of that loss to fuel you going into 2020?

Yeah, it's both for sure, but we're still proud of what we did. It sucks the way it ended, but still a lot of work, a lot of time spent here preparing. I feel like we all gave it our all. We did our best. It's tough with a game like that obviously, but we're still proud of what we did. But definitely with that sting we want to build on it and give us that extra edge to make sure we're not leaving anything on the table like we did last year.

It seems you have the attitude that you're not worried about how many yards you throw for or your stats. Did that help as you entered the offseason, that attitude of getting yourself right and ready for the coming season?

For sure. It didn't change how I would've responded, whether we won or lost. It is a different feeling, though. It's almost easier to come back after you lose that game. You're ready to get started again. You know when you win it you're like, 'Alright, let's let the offseason be like another week longer and enjoy it.' But you're ready to get back, especially when you lose that last game. The way I want to be is just consistent. Never really go up and down. Be the same person after that loss, just trying to be that guy in the locker room. It's obviously tough for us.

Top 50 Players

Trevor Lawrence

1. TREVOR LAWRENCE, QB, CLEMSON
Lawrence had an uneven start to the 2019 season but was back to playing at an elite level by October. After tossing eight interceptions through the first seven games, Lawrence did not toss a pick over Clemson's next eight contests and finished with 3,665 yards and 47 overall scores. Lawrence utilized his mobility more often in 2019, which included a 107-yard rushing performance against Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl. Through two years at Clemson, Lawrence has passed for 6,945 yards, accounted for 76 overall scores and is 25–1 as the starting QB.

2. JUSTIN FIELDS, QB, OHIO STATE
The arrival of Fields as a transfer with immediate eligibility was a huge boost to Ryan Day's first full season in Columbus. Fields guided Ohio State's offense to an average of 46.9 points per game en route to a 13–1 overall mark and a trip to the CFB Playoff. Fields torched teams through the air, connecting on 67.2 percent of his throws for 3,273 yards and 41 touchdowns and just three picks. He also added 484 yards and 10 scores on the ground.

3. PENEI SEWELL, OT, OREGON
Sewell is a dominant force on the left side of the line for Oregon's high-powered offense. The 6'6" tackle has started 20 games over his first two seasons and surrendered just one sack in 1,376 snaps for the Ducks. Sewell claimed the Outland Trophy, was a unanimous first-team All-American and earned co-Offensive Player of the Year honors in the Pac-12 by the AP last season.

Derek Stingley Jr.

4. DEREK STINGLEY JR., CB, LSU
High expectations greeted Stingley once he stepped onto campus as a five-star recruit prior to the 2019 season. The Louisiana native lived up to the hype. He started all 15 games and accumulated six interceptions, 38 tackles and 21 passes defended for the national champs.

5. JA'MARR CHASE, WR, LSU
Chase grabbed 84 receptions for 1,780 yards and 20 scores and won the Biletnikoff Award. He also had the most receptions of 50 or more yards (nine) of any player at the FBS level in 2019.

6. MICAH PARSONS, LB, PENN STATE
Parsons wasted no time making an instant impact as a freshman in 2018, but the Pennsylvania native was even better as a sophomore. As one of the leaders for a Penn State defense that held teams to just 16.0 points per game, Parsons recorded 109 stops (14 for a loss), five sacks and four forced fumbles in 2019.

7. TRAVIS ETIENNE, RB, CLEMSON
Etienne's decision to return to Clemson for his senior year came as a surprise but also entrenched head coach Dabo Swinney's team atop the rankings for 2020. The Louisiana native eclipsed 1,600 rushing yards (1,614) for the second year in a row and reached the end zone 23 times last season. Etienne's offseason work to become a better pass-catcher paid off in a big way with 37 receptions in 2019.

8. CHUBA HUBBARD, RB, OKLAHOMA STATE
Hubbard shined in his first full year as the starter. After running for more than 100 yards in three out of the final four games in 2018, Hubbard led all FBS running backs with 2,094 rushing yards last season. The Canada native averaged a robust 6.4 yards per rush over 328 attempts and scored 21 times on the ground. Hubbard also led all players with seven runs of 50 yards or more in 2019.

9. SAM HOWELL, QB, NORTH CAROLINA
The North Carolina native was the centerpiece of coach Mack Brown's first recruiting haul back in Chapel Hill and he never looked back after winning the starting job. Howell started all 13 games, throwing for 3,641 yards, setting a new FBS true freshman record with 38 touchdown passes and tossing just seven interceptions.

10. SAM EHLINGER, QB, TEXAS
Ehlinger heads into 2020 as the active leader in total career yards (10,400) at the FBS level. Texas regressed in the win column last year, but Ehlinger's completion percentage, yards per attempt, touchdown passes and passing yardage all increased from 2018. Ehlinger has recorded 1,530 rushing yards and 25 scores on 441 carries over the last three years.

Lawrence: Clemson Athletics: Stingley: LSU Athletics: Harris: Paul Abell: Wade: Bruce Schwartzman

11. RONDALE MOORE, WR, PURDUE
A season-ending hamstring injury suffered in late September limited Moore to just four games in 2019, but all signs point to the Indiana native returning at full strength this fall. As a freshman in 2018, Moore caught 114 passes for 1,258 yards and 12 scores and accounted for 2,215 all-purpose yards overall.

12. NAJEE HARRIS, RB, ALABAMA
With a standout offensive line in place, the California native should have his best all-around year for the Crimson Tide. After working in a reserve role in 2017-18, Harris ran for 1,224 yards and 13 touchdowns and added 27 receptions for 304 yards in his first season as the featured back in Tuscaloosa.

Najee Harris

13. KAYVON THIBODEAUX, DE, OREGON
The California native seemed to get stronger as the season went on, recording 10.5 tackles for a loss and 6.5 sacks over the final six contests. With another offseason to develop in the weight room, Thibodeaux should be primed for a monster 2020 season.

14. MARVIN WILSON, DT, FLORIDA STATE
New head coach Mike Norvell scored an offseason victory when Wilson announced his intention to return to Tallahassee for his senior year. Despite playing in just nine games, Wilson earned first-team All-ACC honors in 2019 after recording 8.5 tackles for a loss and five sacks.

15. WYATT DAVIS, G, OHIO STATE
In his first year as a full-time starter, Davis emerged as one of the top interior linemen in college football. He earned first-team All-America honors by *Athlon Sports*, and according to Pro Football Focus, he did not allow a sack on 459 pass-block snaps.

16. DEVONTA SMITH, WR, ALABAMA
Smith led the Crimson Tide with 1,256 receiving yards and 14 touchdown catches last season. He also averaged 18.5 yards per catch and finished second to Jerry Jeudy (77) in receptions (68).

17. DYLAN MOSES, LB, ALABAMA
Moses was regarded as one of the nation's top defenders last fall but suffered a season-ending knee injury in late August and was forced to miss all 13 games. Moses is on track to return in 2020 and should provide needed stability in the middle of the defense.

18. PATRICK SURTAIN II, CB, ALABAMA
Surtain has been a key cog in Alabama's secondary since stepping onto campus. The Florida native has started 25 games over the last two years and followed up a solid freshman campaign by recording 42 tackles, two picks and eight pass breakups as a sophomore last fall.

19. SHAUN WADE, CB, OHIO STATE
Wade's decision to return to Columbus instead of depart for the next level was a huge boost to an Ohio State secondary already slated to lose cornerbacks Jeff Okudah and Damon Arnette, along with safety Jordan Fuller. Over 13 appearances last fall, Wade recorded 25 tackles (four for a loss), two sacks, one interception and eight pass breakups. He will assume the No. 1 cornerback role for Ryan Day's defense in 2020.

20. ALEX LEATHERWOOD, OT, ALABAMA
With Jedrick Wills Jr. off to the NFL, Leatherwood will become the anchor for Alabama's offensive line in 2020. The Florida native started all 15 games at right guard for the Crimson Tide in 2018 but kicked out to left tackle for 13 starts last fall. Leatherwood earned first-team All-SEC honors for his performance.

21. BROCK PURDY, QB, IOWA STATE
The 2019 season marked the first time Iowa State averaged more than 30 points per contest (32.2) since 1976. Purdy started all 13 games and threw for 3,982 yards and 27 touchdowns to only nine picks. He also averaged 8.4 yards per pass attempt and scored eight times on the ground.

22. SPENCER RATTLER, QB, OKLAHOMA
Even though Rattler hasn't started a game, the track record of QBs under Lincoln Riley suggests big things are in store for the redshirt freshman in 2020. The last three quarterbacks in Norman — Baker Mayfield, Kyler Murray and Jalen Hurts — all either won the Heisman or finished as a finalist. Rattler has the talent to fill those shoes.

23. KEDON SLOVIS, QB, USC
A season-ending injury to JT Daniels in the first game of the year opened the door for Slovis to emerge as USC's future at quarterback. The bright lights of Los Angeles were no match for the true freshman, as he connected on 71.9 percent of his throws for 3,502 yards and 30 touchdowns. Slovis tossed only nine picks and posted four games with 400 or more passing yards.

Shaun Wade

24. IAN BOOK, QB, NOTRE DAME
Book's emergence helped Notre Dame reach the CFB Playoff in 2018, and the California native continued to develop with a solid all-around '19 season. Book became the first player in school history to throw for at least 2,500 yards and 30 touchdowns and run for 500 yards.

25. CREED HUMPHREY, C, OKLAHOMA
Humphrey was the lone returning starter on Oklahoma's offensive line last fall and helped this unit transition into one of the better groups in the Big 12 once again. The Oklahoma native is set to anchor this unit once again in 2020 and returns as one of the top linemen in college football.

Trey Smith

26. TREY SMITH, G, TENNESSEE
A medical condition has hampered Smith throughout his career, but he was eventually cleared and started 12 contests for Tennessee in 2019. He earned first-team All-SEC honors and passed on the NFL for one more season on Rocky Top.

27. ELIJAH MOLDEN, CB, WASHINGTON
Molden has a chance to push for All-America honors in 2020. After playing in 27 games in his first two seasons with the Huskies, Molden earned first-team All-Pac-12 honors last season after starting all 13 contests and recording 79 tackles, four interceptions and 13 pass breakup.

28. TANNER MORGAN, QB, MINNESOTA
Morgan's development at quarterback was instrumental in Minnesota's breakout 2019 season. Morgan completed 66.0 percent of his passes for 3,253 yards and 30 TDs and averaged a healthy 10.2 yards per attempt. Morgan's 2019 totals in passing yards, touchdowns and completion percentage all rank as the best in a season in Minnesota history.

29. RASHOD BATEMAN, WR, MINNESOTA
Tyler Johnson will be missed, but the cupboard isn't bare at receiver for Minnesota. Bateman delivered a breakout year for the Golden Gophers last fall, catching 60 passes for 1,219 yards and 11 scores. Additionally, his 20.3 yards-per-catch average led all players in the Big Ten.

30. TYLAN WALLACE, WR, OKLAHOMA STATE
Wallace was earmarked for another 1,000-yard season, but a knee injury suffered in practice sidelined him for the final five games of 2019. Wallace should be back at full strength for 2020 and is one of the top receivers in the nation.

31. JAYLEN WADDLE, WR, ALABAMA
The loss of Jeudy and Henry Ruggs III to the NFL will create more opportunities for Waddle in 2020. He's thrived in the slot for the Crimson Tide, catching 78 passes for 1,408 yards and 13 touchdowns over the last two years. Waddle has also scored three times as a returner on special teams.

32. SAMUEL COSMI, OT, TEXAS
Cosmi shifted to left tackle after starting on the right side as a freshman and earned second-team All-Big 12 honors after helping Texas' offense average 6.4 yards per play and 35.2 points per game last season. He's started 26 games over the last two years.

33. COLE VAN LANEN, OT, WISCONSIN
Wisconsin's offensive line has some holes to fill this off-season, but Van Lanen's return provides a centerpiece for head coach Paul Chryst to build around in 2020. He started 13 games at left tackle for the Badgers and earned second-team All-Big Ten honors last year.

34. JEVON HOLLAND, S, OREGON
Holland headlines an Oregon secondary that ranks among the best in college football for 2020. The California product helped the Ducks rank 14th nationally in pass efficiency defense and accumulated 66 tackles (4.5 for a loss), eight passes defended and four interceptions last fall. After a breakout season in 2019, Holland is poised to elevate his game even higher in 2020.

35. NICK BOLTON, LB, MISSOURI
Bolton picked up the slack for Missouri's defense after standout linebacker Cale Garrett suffered a season-ending pectoral injury. Bolton emerged as one of the SEC's top breakout players with 107 overall tackles (7.5 for a loss), two interceptions and eight pass breakups last fall.

36. GREGORY ROUSSEAU, DE, MIAMI
Rousseau set the bar high for 2020 after recording 19.5 tackles for a loss, 15.5 sacks, and 54 overall tackles as a freshman last fall. Rousseau notched 12 of his sacks in ACC games, including four versus Florida State and three against Pitt.

37. LEVI ONWUZURIKE, DT, WASHINGTON
Onwuzurike won't pile up huge stats in Washington's odd-man front, but he is a key cog in the trenches. While helping the Huskies hold teams to just 3.8 yards per rush, the Texas native earned first-team All-Pac-12 honors after recording six tackles for a loss and two sacks. Onwuzurike has accumulated 16 tackles for a loss and seven sacks in three years in Seattle.

Jaylen Waddle

Smith: Tom DiPace; Waddle: Paul Abell; Twyman: Bruce Schwartzman; Newman: AP

38. QUINCY ROCHE, DE, MIAMI
With a year of eligibility remaining, Roche decided to test his skills at the Power 5 level and transferred from Temple to Miami. He should team with Rousseau (15.5 sacks in 2019) to form one of the nation's top defensive end duos for 2020.

39. CARLOS BASHAM JR., DE, WAKE FOREST
Basham might be one of the most underrated defenders in college football and should rank among the top linemen in the nation after passing on the NFL Draft. As a junior, Basham dominated the line of scrimmage, recording 18 tackles for a loss and 11 sacks. He also forced three fumbles in earning first-team All-ACC honors.

40. CALEB FARLEY, CB, VIRGINIA TECH
Farley had a solid freshman season in 2018, recording 36 tackles, two picks, and seven pass breakups over 13 appearances. However, Farley took a major step forward in his development last fall, earning first-team All-ACC honors after recording 12 pass breakups and four picks.

41. JAYLEN TWYMAN, DT, PITT
Twyman wreaked havoc in the backfield for a Pitt defense that quietly held teams to just 22.5 points per game in 2019. He recorded 41 tackles (12 for a loss) and 10.5 sacks in a breakout year for the Washington, D.C., native last season.

42. JUSTYN ROSS, WR, CLEMSON
Ross will assume the go-to role Lawrence, and the junior is primed for his best season in Death Valley. After catching 46 passes for 1,000 yards and nine scores as a freshman in 2018, Ross caught 66 balls for 865 yards and eight touchdowns last season.

43. JAMIE NEWMAN, QB, GEORGIA
The Wake Forest graduate transfer is set to start for the Bulldogs after Jake Fromm left early for the NFL. Newman tossed 17 scores through the first six games of 2019 but cooled in the second half of the year with three contests of fewer than 200 passing yards and only nine touchdown tosses. The North Carolina native still finished with 2,868 passing yards and added 574 more on the ground to go with 32 overall scores. Newman is capable of finishing 2020 as the top QB in the SEC, but he also has to navigate a new play-caller and scheme, a rebuilt offensive line and a thin group of playmakers on the outside.

Jamie Newman

44. SHANE BUECHELE, QB, SMU
Buechele's arrival at SMU as a graduate transfer helped the program win 10 games for the first time since 1984. The former Longhorn set new single-season records for the Mustangs in passing touchdowns (34) and yardage (3,929) while also connecting on 62.7 percent of his attempts.

45. RICHARD LECOUNTE, S, GEORGIA
LeCounte should become the leader for Georgia's secondary after J.R. Reed finished his eligibility and is one of the top players on a defense that should rank as one of the best in college football. The Georgia native started all 14 games for the Bulldogs in 2019 and recorded 61 stops (4.5 for a loss), four interceptions, two forced fumbles and seven passes defended.

Jaylen Twyman

46. TREVON MOEHRIG, S, TCU
The duo of Moehrig and Ar'Darius Washington should form one of the better safety combinations in the nation. Moehrig recorded 62 stops, 11 pass breakups and four interceptions and earned first-team All-Big 12 honors last season.

47. JAYDEN DANIELS, QB, ARIZONA STATE
After ranking as one of the top quarterback recruits in the 2019 signing class, Daniels won the starting job prior to the opener and started 12 games for the Sun Devils, throwing for 2,943 yards and 17 touchdowns to just two picks. Daniels completed 60.7 percent of his throws and led Pac-12 QBs with 16 completions of 40 or more yards.

48. D'ERIQ KING, QB, MIAMI
Miami utilized three quarterbacks last season, but the carousel under center will end with King coming to Coral Gables after transferring from Houston. Dynamic is the best way to sum up King's career with the Cougars from 2016-19. Over 11 appearances for Houston in 2018, King accounted for 3,668 total yards and 50 overall scores. He took a redshirt season after playing in four games in 2019.

49. JARET PATTERSON, RB, BUFFALO
Thanks to a strong offensive line and deep backfield, the Bulls leaned on their ground attack in 2019. Patterson anchored the powerful Buffalo running game with 312 carries and 1,799 yards. He also scored 19 times, averaged 5.8 yards per carry and gashed Bowling Green for 298 yards in late November last year to set a single-game school record.

50. HAMILCAR RASHED JR., LB, OREGON STATE
Rashed had a breakout year in his third season with the Beavers and excelled at creating havoc for an improved defense. The Arizona native recorded 62 stops and led all Pac-12 defenders with 22.5 tackles for a loss. Rashed registered the most sacks (14) of any Pac-12 player, with 11 coming in conference play.

Teams on the Rise

Jayden Daniels

College football is a volatile and unpredictable sport. The yearly roster turnover, coaching changes, transfers and incoming recruiting classes add a significant level of unpredictability every offseason. And if you need any evidence for that theory, look back to last year. LSU — which had struggled to move its offense into the spread era of college football — found the right mix of coaching staff and quarterback to generate arguably the best season in FBS history. While the unpredictable nature of this sport is always challenging for making preseason predictions and ranking all 130 teams, it's also one of the reasons why Saturdays in the fall never lack for intrigue.

As with every college football season, a handful of teams are likely to exceed preseason expectations or take a big step forward in the rankings. Athlon Sports has studied and ranked all 130 teams, but there are a few we think are on the rise and have the potential to exceed offseason projections. With depth charts, predictions and talent in mind, here are six teams we think are on the rise for 2020.

Arizona State

Herm Edwards has exceeded most expectations. However, winning seasons and bowl trips aren't the goal anymore in Tempe. With a couple of solid recruiting classes under his belt and a bona fide star at quarterback in Jayden Daniels, Edwards should have the Sun Devils in contention for the Top 25 in 2020.

Close calls and a couple of upsets have headlined Edwards' tenure so far. Arizona State lost five games by one score in 2018 and dropped three contests by five points or fewer in '19. Reversing that trend could be as simple as asking more out of Daniels. The California native impressed as a true freshman, completing 60.7 percent of his passes for 2,943 yards and 17 touchdowns to only two picks. The moment was never too big for Daniels, as he delivered a couple of clutch plays to lead an upset over Oregon and led a last-minute scoring drive to beat Michigan State. New coordinator Zak Hill was brought in to maximize Daniels' talents and make the sophomore the focal point of the offense. For Daniels to take his game to the next level, he will need a couple of receivers to emerge after the departure of Brandon Aiyuk and Kyle Williams. Two freshmen — Daniyel Ngata and DeaMonte Trayanum — are likely to help right away at running back.

Arizona State's defense has showed marked improvement over the last two seasons but will be breaking in a new play-caller after Danny Gonzales and Tony White left Tempe. Former NFL linebacker Antonio Pierce and long-time Cincinnati Bengals coach Marvin Lewis will direct the defense in 2020, with Lewis assuming the play-calling duties. With eight starters back and few glaring holes in the two-deep, the Sun Devils should have one of the best defenses in the Pac-12.

Daniels' development and a standout defense should help Arizona State navigate a Pac-12 road slate that features trips to USC, Oregon, Washington State and Arizona. Key swing matchups against California, Utah and UCLA take place in Tempe.

Daniels: Peter Brouillet

Florida State

Florida State has been on a steady decline from the top of college football since winning the 2013 national title. Over the last five years, the Seminoles are just 38–26 and have not won more than seven games since 2016. New head coach Mike Norvell is tasked with getting this program back on track, and all signs point to the former Memphis coach being a home-run hire. While Florida State probably isn't going to compete with Clemson for ACC supremacy in the near future, Norvell should deliver some improvement in his Tallahassee debut.

Norvell is regarded for his offensive acumen, as his teams at Memphis averaged over 40 points per game every year from 2017-19. Florida State has not finished higher than eighth in the ACC in scoring in any of the last three seasons, so Norvell's background should pay dividends right away. Offensive improvement will hinge on two areas: quarterback play and the offensive line. Both groups have been a major issue in recent years, and uncertainty remains going into the fall. James Blackman and Jordan Travis have an edge in experience, but incoming freshmen Chubba Purdy and Tate Rodemaker will factor into the mix. The arrival of FIU transfer Devontay Love-Taylor adds much-needed talent and experience to an offensive line that allowed a whopping 48 sacks in 2019. Norvell has plenty of talented playmakers to lean on, including receiver Tamorrion Terry and Texas A&M transfer Jashaun Corbin at running back.

Florida State's offense is likely to be a work in progress early in the 2020 season, but optimism surrounds a defense that brings back 10 starters. All-ACC lineman Marvin Wilson passed on the NFL for one more season in Tallahassee, and hybrid linebacker/defensive back Jaiden Lars-Woodbey is back from injury to boost a group that gave up 27.8 points per game last year.

Despite its record over the last three seasons, Florida State's roster still has plenty of talent. Look for Norvell to help this team maximize some of that talent in 2020.

Marvin Wilson

Michael Carter

North Carolina

There was plenty of skepticism about Mack Brown's return to North Carolina. As the 2020 season approaches, those doubts have been quieted, and the Tar Heels are likely to be a trendy pick to win the ACC Coastal.

The Tar Heels showed marked improvement in Brown's return to Chapel Hill. After Carolina finished 2–9 and No. 88 in ESPN's SP+ ranking in 2018, Brown guided the program to a 7–6 mark and No. 30 ranking last year. North Carolina started the year with upset wins over South Carolina and Miami and nearly defeated Clemson (21–20) in late September. Of the six losses in 2019, all came by seven points or fewer.

The emergence of quarterback Sam Howell as one of the nation's top freshmen played a huge role in North Carolina's improvement. Howell threw for 3,641 yards and 38 touchdowns to just seven picks and is primed for an even better 2020 season as one of the top quarterbacks in the nation. A strong supporting cast includes 1,000-yard rusher Michael Carter, the return of three full-time starters up front and two big-play threats at receiver in Dazz Newsome and Dyami Brown.

While the offense stole the spotlight, North Carolina quietly held teams to 23.7 points per game after giving up 34.5 the previous year. Coordinator Jay Bateman has to restock the trenches, but the secondary will get a boost from the return of starting cornerback Patrice Rene and safety Myles Wolfolk from injury, along with the arrival of transfers Kyler McMichael (Clemson) and Bryce Watts (Virginia Tech). Games against UCF and Auburn will test North Carolina right away in 2020, but an Oct. 10 date in Chapel Hill against Virginia Tech could decide the winner of the Coastal Division.

Wilson: Tom DiPace; Carter: Dannie Walls/Icon via AP

Tylan Wallace

Oklahoma State

Led by an explosive offense and an experienced defense, Oklahoma State could be the biggest threat to Oklahoma's reign atop the Big 12. Mike Gundy raised the bar in Stillwater with six seasons of double-digit victories from 2010-17. The Cowboys have just 15 wins over the last two years, but the program appears poised to rebound in 2020.

High-powered offenses are an annual strength in Stillwater, and new play-caller Kasey Dunn is stepping into one of the best situations for any first-year coordinator. Running back Chuba Hubbard passed on the NFL after leading the nation with 2,094 rushing yards, and receiver Tylan Wallace will return to full strength after missing the final five games due to a knee injury. Quarterback Spencer Sanders had a promising debut derailed by a thumb injury late in the year but still finished with 2,065 yards and 16 TD passes. This talented trio will have help from an offensive line that returns three starters and adds impact transfer Josh Sills from West Virginia.

The offense isn't the only reason for optimism. After giving up 32.5 points per game in 2018, the Cowboys allowed 26.8 last season. With only one starter departing, the defense should take another step forward. Linebacker Amen Ogbongbemiga (15.5 TFLs) emerged as a playmaker in his first year as a starter; end Trace Ford is a rising star off the edge; and Missouri graduate transfer Christian Holmes will add depth to a thin group at cornerback.

Road trips to TCU, Oklahoma, Baylor and Kansas State are always challenging, but home dates against Texas and Iowa State provide a favorable path to the Big 12 Championship Game.

Penn State

Penn State has been trending up under head coach James Franklin's direction. The Nittany Lions have posted 11 wins in three out of the last four years and finished No. 6 in the final ESPN SP+ rankings for 2019. With 13 starters back, the next milestone for Penn State is attainable for 2020: a trip to the CFB Playoff.

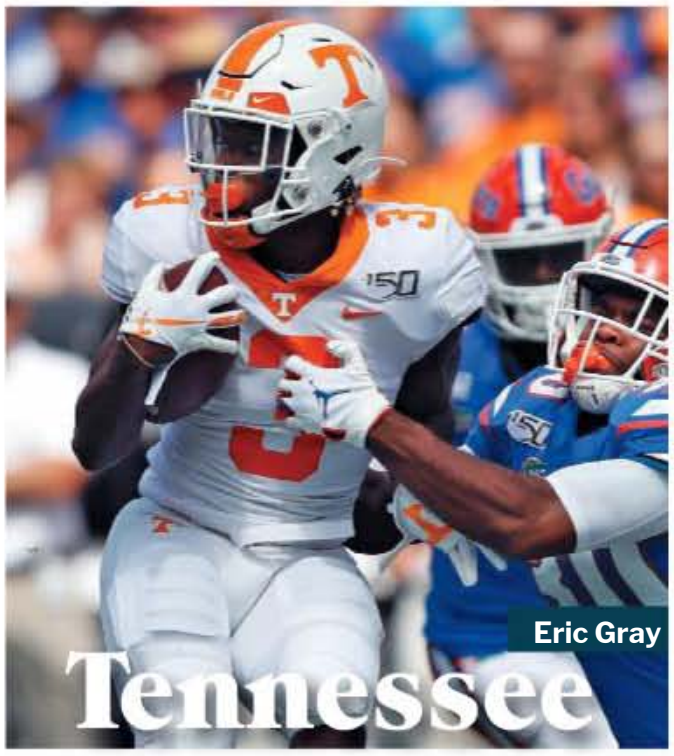
New play-caller Kirk Ciarrocca arrives from Minnesota to build on an offense that averaged 35.8 points a game last season. Ciarrocca won't be starting from scratch, as this attack features a proven quarterback in Sean Clifford and a deep stable of running backs headlined by Journey Brown. Additionally, tight end Pat Freiermuth is among the best in the nation at his position, and four starters are back to headline an improving offensive line. With KJ Hamler off to the NFL and a lack of proven options at receiver outside of Jahan Dotson, Ciarrocca and position coach Taylor Stubblefield have to develop more targets for Clifford in order for the offense to reach the next level. The addition of three four-star receiver prospects in the 2020 signing class could provide instant help this fall.

Every level of Penn State's defense lost a key cog from 2019, but thanks to elite recruiting, the drop-off should be minimal. Linebacker Micah Parsons ranks among college football's top defenders, and Shaka Toney and Jayson Oweh are back to minimize the loss of Yetur Gross-Matos off the edge. The Nittany Lions led the Big Ten in rush defense and were third in sacks (45), but the secondary needs to improve after the Lions finished 41st nationally in pass efficiency defense. Under coordinator Brent Pry, Penn State has not finished lower than fourth in the Big Ten in scoring defense — a trend that seems likely to continue into 2020.

Penn State's schedule features tricky road trips to Michigan, Nebraska and Virginia Tech. However, the showdown against Ohio State takes place in Happy Valley on Oct. 24.

Sean Clifford

Wallace: Bruce Waterfield/OSU Athletics; Clifford: Mark Selders/Penn State Athletics


Eric Gray

Tennessee

Stop us if you heard this before: Tennessee is on its way back to relevance in the SEC. While that phrase has been overused in recent years in reference to the Volunteers, there's reason to believe things are finally headed in the right direction on Rocky Top.

Jeremy Pruitt's second season got off to a disappointing 0–2 start with losses to Georgia State and BYU, and the going didn't get any easier after defeats to Georgia and Florida dropped Tennessee to 1–4 in early October. However, that slow start was a distant memory by the end of the year, as Tennessee reeled off seven wins over its last eight games and capped the season with a 23–22 victory over Indiana in the Gator Bowl.

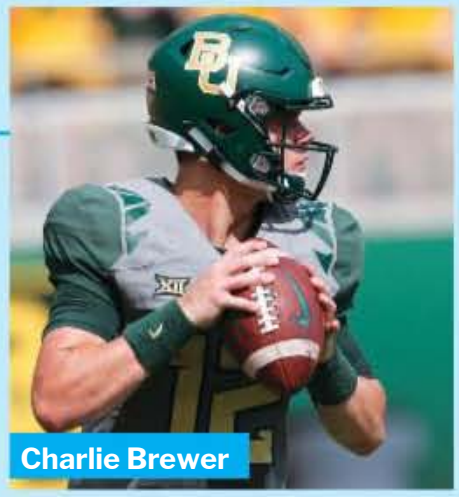
With Georgia and Florida seemingly entrenched as the teams to beat in the SEC East for 2020, a division title might be out of reach for Pruitt's squad, but the third-year coach seems to have the pieces to finish in the Top 25. A defense that held teams to 21.7 points per game in 2019 should be strong once again despite losing linebacker Daniel Bituli and safety Nigel Warrior. The Volunteers will be deeper in the trenches and will feature experienced cornerbacks in Alontae Taylor and Bryce Thompson to headline the secondary. Rising star linebacker Henry To'o To'o is poised to push for All-SEC honors.

Tennessee's offense is a work in progress after averaging only 24.2 points per game last season. To take the next step, Pruitt needs Jarrett Guarantano or another option to solidify the quarterback position after three passers combined to complete just 55.6 percent of their attempts in 2019. The ground game should be a strength behind the one-two punch of Eric Gray and Ty Chandler at running back, and the offensive line should rank among the SEC's best with Trey Smith passing on the NFL and Georgia transfer Cade Mays set to join the mix if awarded a waiver to play right away in 2020.

Gray: Tom DiPace; Brewer: Chris Covatta; Wittingham: Peter Brouillet

Teams on the Decline

Baylor


Charlie Brewer

Matt Rhule brought steady improvement to Baylor during his three-year stint as head coach, which culminated in a trip to the Big 12 Championship Game and Sugar Bowl appearance last season. New coach Dave Aranda is one of the offseason's top hires but inherits some major challenges in his first year.

Baylor's offense is in good hands with quarterback Charlie Brewer, but No. 1 receiver Denzel Mims is gone, and a line that allowed 38 sacks last fall remains a question mark.

Aranda's background on defense should help a unit that returns only two starters and loses key pieces at every level. The Bears lose nine of the top 11 tacklers from the 2019 group and will miss the disruptive play of end James Lynch off the edge.

Baylor also had some good fortune on its side last year. The Bears won five games by one score and sported a plus-11 turnover margin. Both totals could trend the other way in 2020.

Utah

Kyle Whittingham

In early December, there were legitimate discussions whether Utah deserved a berth in the College Football Playoff. The Utes were No. 5 in the rankings at 11–1 with the Pac-12 title game against Oregon to come.

A 22-point beatdown by the Ducks followed by a 28-point loss to Texas in the Alamo Bowl provided a sour ending to the careers of several decorated Utes, and Utah fell to No 16 in the final AP rankings.

A total of seven Utah players heard their names called during the NFL Draft, leaving behind a team that returns just 10 starters, including only two on its top-10 defense. Quarterback Tyler Huntley and running back Zack Moss, the faces of the program for three years, have moved on.

There are eight freshmen or sophomores listed as starters in the post-spring depth chart among the top 22. Utah's last three recruiting classes have ranked fifth, seventh and fifth in the Pac-12.

Kyle Whittingham has an impeccable track record at Utah with 13 bowl games in 15 years and six Top 25 teams, but he has a rebuilding job in front of him after losing so much talent and experience.

ACC *Preview*

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

ATLANTIC DIVISION

1 *Clemson* **TIGERS** 13-0, 8-0 ACC

2 *Louisville* **CARDINALS** 8-4, 5-3 ACC

3 *Florida State* **SEMINOLES** 7-5, 5-3 ACC

4 *Wake Forest* **DEMON DEACONS** 7-5, 4-4 ACC

5 *NC State* **WOLFPACK** 6-6, 3-5 ACC

6 *Syracuse* **ORANGE** 6-6, 2-6 ACC

7 *Boston College* **EAGLES** 4-8, 1-7 ACC

COASTAL DIVISION

1 *North Carolina* **TAR HEELS** 9-4, 6-2 ACC

2 *Virginia Tech* **HOKIES** 8-4, 5-3 ACC

3 *Miami* **HURRICANES** 9-3, 5-3 ACC

4 *Pittsburgh* **PANTHERS** 7-5, 4-4 ACC

5 *Virginia* **CAVALIERS** 7-5, 4-4 ACC

6 *Duke* **BLUE DEVILS** 5-7, 2-6 ACC

7 *Georgia Tech* **YELLOW JACKETS** 3-9, 2-6 ACC

ACC Championship: **Clemson over North Carolina**

Games to Watch

SEPT. 7
VIRGINIA VS. GEORGIA (ATLANTA)
Two conference runners-up kick things off with both teams breaking in new quarterbacks.

SEPT. 12
NORTH CAROLINA VS. AUBURN (ATLANTA)
Sam Howell and Bo Nix, two of the country's top sophomore QBs, will go head-to-head as these teams look to build some early momentum.

SEPT. 12
PENN STATE AT VIRGINIA TECH
Penn State has playoff aspirations, while Virginia Tech is in need of a signature win.

SEPT. 19
FLORIDA STATE AT BOISE STATE
Boise State rallied to beat Florida State in Tallahassee last season, and now it gets the Noles at home. A win in Boise would be huge for new FSU head coach Mike Norvell.

OCT. 10
CLEMSON AT FLORIDA STATE
For FSU, not getting blown out at home by the five-time defending ACC champs would be a step in the right direction.

OCT. 10
VIRGINIA TECH AT NORTH CAROLINA
These teams needed six overtimes to determine the outcome last season. This year's meeting could decide which team wins the Coastal.

Howell: AP Photo/Gerry Broome; Lawrence: Scott Kinser/CSM via AP

2020 Unit Rankings

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
Boston College	14	6	10	2	11	7	14
Clemson	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
Duke	10	13	14	9	7	12	8
Florida State	8	4	3	11	4	6	4
Georgia Tech	13	7	11	14	14	13	10
Louisville	4	2	4	8	13	11	12
Miami	3	8	5	12	2	9	7
North Carolina	2	3	2	5	10	4	5
NC State	11	5	8	4	9	5	13
Pittsburgh	7	9	9	7	3	10	3
Syracuse	9	12	12	13	12	14	9
Virginia	12	14	13	6	8	3	6
Virginia Tech	6	11	7	3	5	1	2
Wake Forest	5	10	6	10	6	8	11

Sam Howell

Recruiting by School

1. Clemson
2. Miami
3. North Carolina
4. Florida State
5. Georgia Tech
6. NC State
7. Louisville
8. Pittsburgh
9. Virginia
10. Syracuse
11. Wake Forest
12. Duke
13. Boston College
14. Virginia Tech

2020 Bowl Projections

Belk Bowl: Louisville vs. Minnesota
Camping World Bowl: Virginia Tech vs. Texas
Fenway Bowl: Syracuse vs. Temple
Gasparilla Bowl: NC State vs. Tulane
Gator Bowl: Florida State vs. Ole Miss
Holiday Bowl: Pitt vs. California
Military Bowl: Wake Forest vs. Navy
Pinstripe Bowl: Virginia vs. Nebraska
Sun Bowl: Miami vs. Utah
Orange Bowl: North Carolina vs. Florida
Sugar Bowl (CFP): Clemson vs. Oklahoma

Trevor Lawrence

ACC Coordinator Carousel

Boston College: Offense
New: Frank Cignetti
Old: Mike Bajakian

Boston College: Defense
New: Tem Lukabu
Old: Bill Sheridan

Clemson: Offense
New: Tony Elliott
Old: Tony Elliott, Jeff Scott

Florida State: Offense
New: Kenny Dillingham
Old: Kendal Briles

Florida State: Defense
New: Adam Fuller
Old: Harlon Barnett

Miami: Offense
New: Rhett Lashlee
Old: Dan Enos

NC State: Offense
New: Tim Beck
Old: Des Kitchings, George McDonald

NC State: Defense
New: Tony Gibson
Old: Tony Gibson, Dave Huxtable

Syracuse: Offense
New: Sterlin Gilbert
Old: Mike Lynch

Syracuse: Defense
New: Tony White
Old: Brian Ward

Virginia Tech: Defense
New: Justin Hamilton
Old: Bud Foster

OCT. 24
FLORIDA STATE AT LOUISVILLE
This is an important game as it relates to the pecking order behind Clemson. Also a big game for both fan bases and head coaches.

NOV. 7
CLEMSON AT NOTRE DAME
The Tigers dominated the Irish 30–3 in the College Football Playoff semi-final two seasons ago. The Irish will look to return the favor in South Bend.

NOV. 7
FLORIDA STATE AT MIAMI
Florida State's Mike Norvell can endear himself to the Seminoles fan base by snapping FSU's three-game skid in the series.

NOV. 14
MIAMI AT VIRGINIA TECH
These two teams are just 17–15 in ACC play over the last two seasons but seem to save their best for each other. Tech won in Miami last season.

NOV. 21
PITT AT VIRGINIA
Virginia snapped a four-game losing streak to Pitt last season but has never beaten the Panthers in consecutive games.

NOV. 28
VIRGINIA AT VIRGINIA TECH
Virginia broke its 15-game losing streak to Tech last season. Next up for UVA? Trying to win in Blacksburg for the first time since 1998.

Travis Etienne

ACC Returning Leaders

Passing	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	AVG/G
Sam Howell, North Carolina	422	259	61.4	3,641	38	7	280.1
Kenny Pickett, Pittsburgh	469	289	61.6	3,098	13	9	258.2
Trevor Lawrence, Clemson	407	268	65.8	3,665	36	8	244.3

Rushing	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
Javian Hawkins, Louisville	264	1,525	5.8	9	66	117.3
Travis Etienne, Clemson	207	1,614	7.8	19	90	107.6
Michael Carter, North Carolina	177	1,003	5.7	3	60	77.2

Receiving	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
Sage Surratt, Wake Forest	66	1,001	15.2	11	90	111.2
Tutu Atwell, Louisville	70	1,276	18.2	12	90	98.2
Tamorrion Terry, Florida State	60	1,188	19.8	9	91	91.4

Tackles: Rayshard Ashby, Virginia Tech (120), Chazz Surratt, North Carolina (115)
Sacks: Gregory Rousseau, Miami (15.5), Carlos Basham Jr., Wake Forest (11.0)
Interceptions: Andre Cisco, Syracuse (5), Caleb Farley, Virginia Tech (4)

2019 ACC Standings

ATLANTIC	ACC	OVERALL
Clemson	8-0	14-1
Louisville	5-3	8-5
Wake Forest	4-4	8-5
Florida State	4-4	6-7
Boston College	4-4	6-7
Syracuse	2-6	5-7
NC State	1-7	4-8

COASTAL	ACC	OVERALL
Virginia	6-2	9-5
Virginia Tech	5-3	8-5
Miami	4-4	6-7
Pittsburgh	4-4	8-5
North Carolina	4-4	7-6
Duke	3-5	5-7
Georgia Tech	2-6	3-9

2019 Bowl Results

Independence Bowl: Louisiana Tech 14, Miami (Fla.) 0
Quick Lane Bowl: Pittsburgh 34, Eastern Michigan 30
Military Bowl: North Carolina 55, Temple 13
Birmingham Bowl: Cincinnati 38, Boston College 6
Pinstripe Bowl: Michigan State 27, Wake Forest 21
Sun Bowl: Arizona State 20, Florida State 14
Music City Bowl: Louisville 38, Mississippi State 28
Belk Bowl: Kentucky 37, Virginia Tech 30
Orange Bowl: Florida 36, Virginia 28
Fiesta Bowl (CFP Semifinal): Clemson 29, Ohio State 23
CFP National Championship Game: LSU 42, Clemson 25

2019 ACC Team Stats & Rankings

Offense

	SCORING	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
Boston College	29.0 (7)	253.2 (1)	176.0 (13)	429.2 (5)
Clemson	43.9 (1)	240.4 (2)	288.3 (1T)	528.7 (1)
Duke	25.3 (11)	150.3 (10)	179.3 (12)	329.7 (13)
Florida State	27.9 (9)	140.7 (11)	267.6 (5)	408.3 (6)
Georgia Tech	16.7 (14)	152.4 (8)	133.9 (14)	286.3 (14)
Louisville	33.1 (2T)	212.8 (3)	234.5 (9)	447.3 (4)
Miami	25.7 (10)	118.1 (14)	249.2 (7)	367.2 (12)
NC State	22.1 (12)	151.2 (9)	229.1 (10)	380.3 (11)
North Carolina	33.1 (2T)	188.2 (4)	285.8 (3)	474.0 (2)
Pittsburgh	21.2 (13)	118.8 (13)	261.7 (6)	380.5 (10)
Syracuse	28.3 (8)	154.0 (7)	240.6 (8)	394.6 (7)
Virginia	32.1 (4)	121.2 (12)	267.7 (4)	388.9 (8)
Virginia Tech	30.8 (6)	176.1 (5)	209.1 (11)	385.2 (9)
Wake Forest	31.8 (5)	175.7 (6)	288.3 (1T)	464.0 (3)

Defense

	SCORING	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
Boston College	32.2 (12)	193.2 (11)	285.5 (14)	478.7 (14)
Clemson	13.5 (1)	116.1 (3)	172.3 (1)	288.3 (1)
Duke	29.2 (9)	180.6 (10)	199.0 (3)	379.6 (7)
Florida State	27.8 (7)	147.5 (8)	276.7 (13)	424.2 (11)
Georgia Tech	32.4 (13)	215.3 (14)	207.7 (5)	422.9 (10)
Louisville	33.4 (14)	205.8 (13)	234.2 (9)	439.9 (12)
Miami	20.2 (2)	114.6 (2)	195.2 (2)	309.8 (2)
NC State	30.1 (10)	143.4 (6)	255.5 (11)	398.9 (8)
North Carolina	23.7 (4)	143.5 (7)	229.6 (7)	373.2 (6)
Pittsburgh	22.5 (3)	108.5 (1)	204.5 (4)	312.9 (3)
Syracuse	30.7 (11)	201.6 (12)	262.5 (12)	464.1 (13)
Virginia	27.1 (6)	138.1 (4)	233.7 (8)	371.9 (5)
Virginia Tech	24.7 (5)	139.3 (5)	224.0 (6)	363.3 (4)
Wake Forest	29.1 (8)	163.7 (9)	252.8 (10)	416.5 (9)

Etienne: Paul Abell; Hawkins: Tom DiPace; Surratt: AP Photo/Chris Seward; Terry: FSU Athletics

ALL-ACC TEAM

First-Team Offense

QB	**Trevor Lawrence**	6-6	220	Jr.	Clemson
RB	**Travis Etienne**	5-10	210	Sr.	Clemson
RB	**Javian Hawkins**	5-9	196	So.	Louisville
AP	**Tutu Atwell**	5-9	165	Jr.	Louisville
WR	**Sage Surratt**	6-3	215	Jr.	Wake Forest
WR	**Justyn Ross**	6-4	205	Jr.	Clemson
TE	**Brevin Jordan**	6-3	235	Jr.	Miami
C	**Jimmy Morrissey**	6-3	305	Sr.	Pitt
OL	**Jackson Carman**	6-5	345	Jr.	Clemson
OL	**Christian Darrisaw**	6-5	311	Jr.	Virginia Tech
OL	**Ben Petrula**	6-5	310	Sr.	Boston College
OL	**Tyler Vrabel**	6-5	310	So.	Boston College

Javian Hawkins

Chazz Surratt

First-Team Defense

DL	**Gregory Rousseau**	6-7	253	So.	Miami
DL	**Carlos Basham Jr.**	6-5	275	Sr.	Wake Forest
DL	**Jaylen Twyman**	6-2	290	Jr.	Pitt
DL	**Marvin Wilson**	6-5	310	Sr.	Florida State
LB	**Rayshard Ashby**	5-10	237	Sr.	Virginia Tech
LB	**Chazz Surratt**	6-3	230	Sr.	North Carolina
LB	**James Skalski**	6-0	235	Sr.	Clemson
CB	**Caleb Farley**	6-2	207	Jr.	Virginia Tech
CB	**Asante Samuel Jr.**	5-10	184	Jr.	Florida State
S	**Paris Ford**	6-0	190	Jr.	Pitt
S	**Hamsah Nasirildeen**	6-4	212	Sr.	Florida State

First-Team Specialists

K	**Nick Sciba**	5-9	190	Jr.	Wake Forest
P	**Oscar Bradburn**	6-1	221	Sr.	Virginia Tech
KR	**Damond Philyaw-Johnson**	6-1	170	Jr.	Duke
PR	**Tayvion Robinson**	5-10	186	So.	Virginia Tech

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	**Sam Howell**	6-2	225	So.	North Carolina
RB	**David Bailey**	6-1	240	Jr.	Boston College
RB	**Michael Carter**	5-10	200	Sr.	North Carolina
AP	**Dyami Brown**	6-1	195	Jr.	North Carolina
WR	**Dazz Newsome**	5-11	190	Sr.	North Carolina
WR	**Tamorrion Terry**	6-4	210	Jr.	Florida State
TE	**Noah Gray**	6-4	240	Sr.	Duke
C	**Alec Lindstrom**	6-4	290	Jr.	Boston College
OL	**Ikem Ekwonu**	6-4	308	So.	NC State
OL	**Jordan McFadden**	6-2	295	So.	Clemson
OL	**Zion Johnson**	6-3	310	Sr.	Boston College
OL	**Lecitus Smith**	6-3	316	Jr.	Virginia Tech

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	**Quincy Roche**	6-4	235	Sr.	Miami
DL	**Tyler Davis**	6-2	295	So.	Clemson
DL	**Chris Rumph II**	6-3	225	Jr.	Duke
DL	**Patrick Jones II**	6-5	260	Sr.	Pitt
LB	**Max Richardson**	6-0	230	Sr.	Boston College
LB	**Charles Snowden**	6-7	235	Sr.	Virginia
LB	**David Curry**	6-2	230	Sr.	Georgia Tech
CB	**Derion Kendrick**	6-0	190	Jr.	Clemson
CB	**Jermaine Waller**	6-1	180	Jr.	Virginia Tech
S	**Damar Hamlin**	6-1	195	Sr.	Pitt
S	**Andre Cisco**	6-0	206	Jr.	Syracuse

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	**Andre Szmyt**	6-1	191	Jr.	Syracuse
P	**Trenton Gill**	6-4	217	Jr.	NC State
KR	**Hassan Hall**	6-0	204	Jr.	Louisville
PR	**Thayer Thomas**	6-0	195	Jr.	NC State

Tamorrion Terry
Florida State

D'Eriq King
Miami

Max Richardson
Boston College

Tre Swilling
Georgia Tech

THIRD-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	**D'Eriq King**	5-11	195	Sr.	Miami
RB	**Jordan Mason**	6-1	219	Jr.	Georgia Tech
RB	**Jashaun Corbin**	6-0	213	So.	Florida State
AP	**Deon Jackson**	6-0	215	Sr.	Duke
WR	**Tré Turner**	6-2	190	Jr.	Virginia Tech
WR	**Terrell Jana**	6-0	190	Sr.	Virginia
TE	**Hunter Long**	6-5	255	Jr.	Boston College
C	**Olusegun Oluwatimi**	6-3	305	Jr.	Virginia
OL	**Joe Sculthorpe**	6-3	300	Sr.	NC State
OL	**Zach Tom**	6-4	290	Jr.	Wake Forest
OL	**Bryce Hargrove**	6-4	320	Sr.	Pitt
OL	**Jordan Tucker**	6-7	335	Jr.	North Carolina

THIRD-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	**Xavier Thomas**	6-2	265	Jr.	Clemson
DL	**Rashad Weaver**	6-5	270	Sr.	Pitt
DL	**Alim McNeill**	6-2	315	Jr.	NC State
DL	**Victor Dimukeje**	6-2	265	Sr.	Duke
LB	**Noah Taylor**	6-5	215	Jr.	Virginia
LB	**Zach McCloud**	6-2	236	Sr.	Miami
LB	**Zane Zandier**	6-3	230	Sr.	Virginia
CB	**Tre Swilling**	6-0	200	Jr.	Georgia Tech
CB	**Damarri Mathis**	5-11	195	Sr.	Pitt
S	**Joey Blount**	6-1	190	Sr.	Virginia
S	**Nasir Greer**	6-0	200	Jr.	Wake Forest

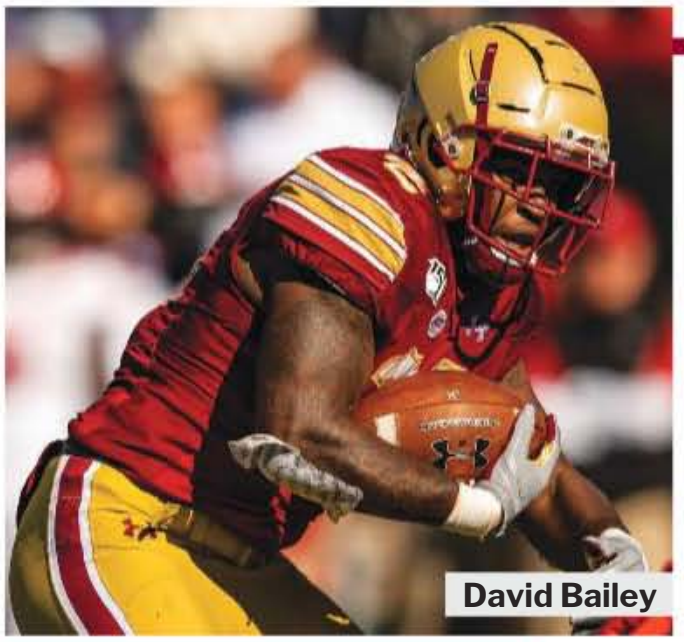
THIRD-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	**Christopher Dunn**	5-8	180	Jr.	NC State
P	**Pressley Harvin III**	6-0	245	Sr.	Georgia Tech
KR	**Travis Levy**	5-11	205	Sr.	Boston College
PR	**Amari Rodgers**	5-10	210	Sr.	Clemson

King: Tim Brogdon/Miami Athletics; Richardson: BC Athletics; Swilling: Georgia Tech Athletics

BOSTON COLLEGE Eagles

National Forecast: **68** · ACC Atlantic Prediction: **7** · Projected Record: **4-8, 1-7**


David Bailey

A new era of Boston College football begins with the first year of the Jeff Hafley regime. After a solid yet underwhelming run under Steve Addazio — six bowl appearances in seven seasons and a 44–44 record — Eagles athletic director Martin Jarmond opted to capitalize on his Buckeye connections with Hafley, Ohio State's former co-defensive coordinator.

"The culture at Ohio State is definitely a winning tradition and one that's had a ton of success," Jarmond said when Hafley was hired. "So to have a guy who's been through that and is hoping to bring the winning culture here is a good thing.Something we're looking forward to with him is him being that defensive guy, having the attributes of being energetic and being that spark. We're looking forward to having him and bringing some life to this program."

Hafley inherits a team that went 6–7 last year, including a 4–4 mark in the ACC. BC has qualified for four straight bowl games but has not recorded an eight-win season since Frank Spaziani's first season in 2009.

After significant early losses to the NFL the past two years, Hafley's squad returns some talent but not as much as in seasons past.

OFFENSE Gone is AJ Dillon, a former ACC Offensive Rookie of the Year and three-time first-team All-ACC performer who declared for the NFL Draft after his junior year. Anthony Brown, an oft-injured but talented quarterback, transferred to Oregon.

Dillon and junior David Bailey took on the moniker "Buffalo Bros," and the latter is a candidate for a breakout season after rushing for 844 yards and seven touchdowns in 2019. His 5.7 yards per carry average was nearly half a yard per carry better than Dillon's, and Bailey flashed lead-back potential with a 181-yard, two-touchdown performance at NC State and a 172-yard, two-touchdown effort against Syracuse.

Redshirt junior Dennis Grosel took over the starting QB job when Brown went down, starting the final seven games of the season. The former preferred walk-on threw for over 200 yards just once, but he passed for nine touchdowns to only three interceptions. The Eagles also have Phil Jurkovec, a transfer from Notre Dame who was ranked as the No. 4 dual-threat quarterback in the class of 2018 by 247Sports. The Eagles are working on a waiver to get him immediate eligibility. If cleared to play, the redshirt sophomore should get plenty of chances to be at the top of the depth chart.

Redshirt senior Kobay White is the top receiving threat after a team-high 29 catches (460 yards) and five receiving touchdowns last fall. Zay Flowers (22 catches, 341 yards) is the only other experienced wideout returning from last season. Tight end Hunter Long (team-high 509 receiving yards) is a reliable target. Along the offensive line, four of five starters return. Elijah Johnson is in line to take over the right guard spot for the graduated John Phillips.

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Jeff Hafley
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Frank Cignetti Jr.
Defensive Coordinator: Tem Lukabu
Location: Chestnut Hill, MA
Stadium: Alumni Stadium (44,500)

KEY EAGLES

DAVID BAILEY, RB Part of a two-headed monster with AJ Dillon, the lesser known of the "Buffalo Bros" ran for 844 yards in 2019.

MAX RICHARDSON, LB Led the Eagles with 108 tackles last year, including 14.5 tackles for a loss and 3.5 sacks.

ZAY FLOWERS, WR An electrifying athlete, Flowers compiled 341 receiving yards as a true freshman.

KEY LOSSES

AJ DILLON, RB The three-time first-team All-ACC running back led the conference with 1,685 rushing yards last fall.

ANTHONY BROWN, QB Although he suffered season-ending knee injuries as a redshirt freshman and junior, Brown was a dual threat and an experienced leader.

BEN GLINES, WR/RB/KR The do-everything Glines will be missed for his versatility all over the offense.

RISING STAR

With AJ Dillon gone and the potential for a more pass-heavy attack, look for wide receiver **ZAY FLOWERS** to build off a strong freshman campaign. The speedy wideout has big-play ability, evidenced by 116 all-purpose yards in his first collegiate game against Virginia Tech.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	Syracuse
Sept.	12	Ohio
Sept.	19	at Kansas
Sept.	26	Purdue
Oct.	2	Clemson
Oct.	10	Louisville
Oct.	22	at Virginia Tech
Oct.	31	Holy Cross
Nov.	7	at NC State
Nov.	14	at Florida State
Nov.	21	North Carolina
Nov.	28	at Wake Forest

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 6-7, 4-4 ACC

Aug.	31	Virginia Tech	W	35-28
Sept.	7	Richmond	W	45-13
Sept.	13	Kansas	L	24-48
Sept.	21	at Rutgers	W	30-16
Sept.	28	Wake Forest	L	24-27
Oct.	5	at Louisville	L	39-41
Oct.	19	NC State	W	45-24
Oct.	26	at Clemson	L	7-59
Nov.	2	at Syracuse	W	58-27
Nov.	9	Florida State	L	31-38
Nov.	23	at Notre Dame	L	7-40
Nov.	30	at Pittsburgh	W	26-19
Jan.	2	vs. Cincinnati #	L	6-38

#Birmingham Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	ACC	NATIONAL
Scoring	29.0 ppg	7	66
Rushing	253.2 ypg	1	8
Passing	176.0 ypg	13	113
Total	429.2 ypg	5	47
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	32.2 ppg	12	101
Rushing	193.2 ypg	11	100
Passing	285.5 ypg	14	122
Total	478.7 ypg	14	125
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
+5	+0.38	5	33

2020 RECRUITS

1. Ozzy Trapilo, OT, Boston, MA
2. Kevin Pyne, OT, Milford, MA
3. Korey Smith, LB, Hightstown, NJ
4. Charlie Gordinier, TE, Red Bank, NJ
5. Justin Bellido, WR, Brooklyn, NY
6. Andre Hines, RB, Brooklyn, NY
7. Hans Lillis, TE, Fort Washington, PA
8. Dwayne Allick, OG, Hyattsville, MD
9. Taji Johnson, WR, Marietta, GA
10. Kam Arnold, ATH, West Bloomfield, MI
11. Jason Scott, CB, Olney, MD
12. Cam Horsley, DT, Riverton, NJ
13. Matthew Rueve, QB, Cincinnati, OH
14. Jio Holmes, S, Cleveland, OH
15. Denzel Blackwell, CB, Houston, TX

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Boston College Athletics

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	27.0	119
Defense	29.7	75
Margin	**-2.7**	**106**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	44.9%	40
Defense	45.1%	102
Margin	**-0.2%**	**74**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.8	68
Defense	6.3	110
Margin	**-0.5**	**97**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.9	35
Defense	4.7	92
Margin	**+0.2**	**63**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	1.2	54
Actual	5	32
Margin	**+3.8**	**33**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

0.10

Expected Points Added is a quantifiable measure of the effect of a single play based on down, distance and yard line. Boston College ranked second in the ACC and among the top 25 nationally in Offensive EPA (0.10 EPA per play) in 2019.

16.14

The Eagles ranked among the nation's best at forcing negative rushing plays last season. Boston College recorded 82 tackles for a loss across 508 rushing attempts (excluding sacks) in 2019, a rate of 16.14 percent that led the ACC.

23.5

The Boston College defense surrendered an average of 23.5 first downs per game in 2019, a number that ranked 12th in the ACC and No. 119 nationally. For the season, the Eagles allowed 166 first downs on passing plays, the second most in the country.

DEFENSE Fifth-year senior outside linebacker Max Richardson opted to stay at BC and play out his final year of eligibility, and he will be one of the team's primary leaders and most talented players. Richardson compiled team-leading marks in tackles (108), tackles for a loss (14.5) and sacks (3.5). Experienced John Lamot (77 tackles), Joe Sparacio (50 tackles, six tackles for a loss) and strong-side specialist Isaiah McDuffie join Richardson in the linebacking corps.

"I've been here four years now, so you have one system and it just modifies a little bit year to year," Richardson says. "But a whole new defensive staff comes in and they put in a whole new system and it is a learning curve, but it's good. You're able to develop yourself, personally, learn a new style of defense, maybe mold some of your tools that you were not molding before."

Brothers Brandon and Bryce Sebastian return in the secondary. Bryce is an interesting case, as he was recruited and listed on the roster as a wide receiver before being tabbed to fill a hole in the secondary in his true freshman season.

Mike Palmer led the Eagles with two interceptions last season, and he is also back. Jason Maitre will likely line up opposite Brandon Sebastian at cornerback.

Along the defensive line, Richard Yeargin and Tanner Karafa must be replaced. Bryce Morais is a good bet to fill Yeargin's spot after playing in all 13 games last fall.

SPECIALISTS All the key special teams performers are back, including placekicker Aaron Boumerhi, punter Grant Carlson and top return man Travis Levy. Boumerhi connected on 12-of-18 field-goal attempts last year in his first season at BC. During his career at Temple, Boumerhi converted on 31-of-43 field-goal attempts. Levy had his best game vs. Kansas with 189 return yards.

FINAL ANALYSIS Not only is it a new era in terms of the coaching staff and scheme, but the offense is also filled with plenty of mystery. An experienced defense should help keep the Eagles afloat and trending toward a record similar to their last few seasons. A lower-level bowl game is not out of the question.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**9**	**Kobay White (Sr.)**	23	Travis Levy (Sr.)
WR	4	Zay Flowers (So.)	82	Ethon Williams (So.)
LT	**78**	**Tyler Vrabel (So.)**	71	Nate Emer (Jr.)
LG	**77**	**Zion Johnson (Sr.)**	74	Finn Dirstine (So.)
C	**72**	**Alec Lindstrom (Jr.)**	77	Zion Johnson (Sr.)
RG	76	Elijah Johnson (Sr.)	56	Adam Korutz (Sr.)
RT	**64**	**Ben Petrula (Sr.)**	67	Jack Conley (Fr.)
TE	80	Hunter Long (Jr.)	89	Drew McQuarrie (Jr.)
TE	86	Ray Marten (Sr.)	15	Danny Dalton (Sr.)
QB	**6**	**Dennis Grosel (Jr.)**	7	Matt Valecce (So.)
RB	26	David Bailey (Jr.)	23	Travis Levy (Sr.)

DEFENSE (7)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	90	Bryce Morais (Sr.)	92	Izaiah Henderson (Fr.)
DT	98	Kyiev Bennermon (So.)	94	Ryan Betro (So.)
NT	**99**	**TJ Rayam (Sr.)**	91	Jaleel Berry (Jr.)
DE	97	Marcus Valdez (Jr.)	**44**	**Brandon Barlow (Sr.)**
OLB	55	Isaiah McDuffie (Jr.)	**34**	**Joseph Sparacio (So.)**
MLB	**28**	**John Lamot (Sr.)**	42	Vinny DePalma (So.)
OLB	**14**	**Max Richardson (Sr.)**	36	Paul Theobald Jr. (Jr.)
CB	**10**	**Brandon Sebastian (Jr.)**	7	Tate Haynes (Jr.)
CB	3	Jason Maitre (So.)	27	Josh DeBerry (So.)
SS	8	Jahmin Muse (Jr.)	20	Elijah Jones (So.)
FS	**18**	**Mike Palmer (Sr.)**		Deon Jones (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	41	Aaron Boumerhi (Sr.)	**KR** 23	Travis Levy (Sr.)
P	95	Grant Carlson (Sr.)	**PR** 23	Travis Levy (Sr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Anthony Brown	137	81	1,250	9	2
Dennis Grosel	**155**	**75**	**983**	**9**	**3**
Matt Valecce	**7**	**3**	**27**	**0**	**0**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
AJ Dillon	318	1,685	5.3	14
David Bailey	**148**	**844**	**5.7**	**7**
Dennis Grosel	**57**	**209**	**3.7**	**2**
Anthony Brown	33	128	3.9	2
Travis Levy	**28**	**103**	**3.7**	**1**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Kobay White	**29**	**460**	**15.9**	**5**
Hunter Long	**28**	**509**	**18.2**	**2**
Zay Flowers	**22**	**341**	**15.5**	**3**
Jake Burt	15	212	14.1	1
AJ Dillon	14	164	11.7	4

KICKING: **Aaron Boumerhi, 12-18 FGs, 81 pts.**

TACKLES: **Max Richardson, 108; John Lamot, 77**

SACKS: **Max Richardson, 3.5**

INTERCEPTIONS: **Mike Palmer, 2**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE EAGLES

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP BOSTON COLLEGE

"(Jeff) Hafley has a lot of work to do here. Mediocrity was accepted in this program for a very long time. ... Hafley did a fantastic job as DC at Ohio State, but that's not something you can apply in this situation. The Buckeyes ran about as simple a scheme as anyone in the country last year. If you do the same thing at BC, you'll lose every game by 50. You have to be complex, creative and different to make a difference with a roster like this. ... They're going to push NFL prep in recruiting, we think. They have a lot of ex-NFL guys on staff, so they'll push that to recruits. That might not work, but give them credit for doing something different. ... They've had some good running backs in the past, AJ Dillon played really hard and should have a shot at a pro career, but they need to find another one quick. It's just a mediocre talent pool. The offense's strength is the line, so they can build off that. ... Defensively they don't lose a lot but they need to scrap it and start over. Go completely fresh with their scheme. ... The toughest part of the job at BC is that it's like Syracuse. There aren't enough local players to build off of. In this league, are they ever going to have enough to line up against the Southern schools? Is that the expectation?"

CLEMSON Tigers

National Forecast: **1** · ACC Atlantic Prediction: **1** · Projected Record: **13-0, 8-0 ACC**

Trevor Lawrence

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Dabo Swinney
Record at School: 130-31 (11+ years)
Career Record: 130-31 (11+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Tony Elliott
Defensive Coordinator: Brent Venables
Location: Clemson, SC
Stadium: Clemson Memorial Stadium (81,500)

KEY TIGERS

TREVOR LAWRENCE, QB Lawrence passed for 3,665 yards and 36 TDs last year. He's 25–1 as a starter at Clemson.

TRAVIS ETIENNE, RB Etienne is already the ACC's leader in career rushing touchdowns with 56.

JAMES SKALSKI, LB Dabo Swinney wanted to take Skalski off the field at times during the spring because it wasn't fair to the Clemson offense.

KEY LOSSES

ISAIAH SIMMONS, LB All-American led Clemson in tackles, tackles for a loss and sacks and tied for the team lead in pass breakups.

TEE HIGGINS, WR A big-play threat who thrived at making tough catches, Higgins was Lawrence's favorite target last year.

A.J. TERRELL, DB He had a rough game vs. LSU, but Terrell was a two-year starter and first-team All-ACC selection as a junior in 2019.

RISING STAR

Clemson has produced its share of talented defensive linemen, and it appears as though **MYLES MURPHY** is the latest future star. The five-star recruit impressed the coaching staff and his fellow teammates this spring with his size, speed and athleticism.

Clemson is operating as a well-oiled machine that doesn't appear to be slowing down anytime soon. The Tigers have been the most consistent program in the country over the past five years, reaching the College Football Playoff all five times, with four national title game berths and a pair of national championships.

Clemson just completed its most successful decade in school history and one of the most successful in college football history as Dabo Swinney's program finished 117–23 during the 2010s, tying for the third-most victories in a decade in major college football since 1890. Clemson has won at least 10 games in nine consecutive years, and in a conference where no one is recruiting or developing talent anywhere close to the way the Tigers are, there's no telling when that streak will end.

OFFENSE Clemson's offense was already going to be one of the best in the country in 2020 with Trevor Lawrence back at the helm, even before Travis Etienne announced he was returning for his senior season. Lawrence is arguably the top quarterback in the country, and Etienne is arguably the top running back in the country. The two just so happen to be on the same team.

Lawrence, who passed for 22 touchdowns and no interceptions in his final eight games last season, has plenty of targets to throw to, led by returning starters Justyn Ross and Amari Rodgers. Those two have proven they can make big plays in big games. Look for Rodgers to take his game to another level as a senior now that he doesn't have to wear a brace on his surgically repaired knee.

Sophomores Joseph Ngata and Frank Ladson Jr. will battle for the third starting spot to replace Tee Higgins, who is off to the NFL. Ngata received plenty of hype heading into last season but made a minimal impact, as did Ladson, who is one of the fastest players on the team. The two should be much more involved in the offense this year.

Speaking of being more involved in the offense, the tight end position was a small part of Clemson's offense in 2019, but that should change with Braden Galloway available for the entire season after serving a year-long suspension. Galloway is big (6'4", 240) and fast and should be a matchup nightmare.

The biggest question mark is the offensive line, where the Tigers must replace four starters. Only left tackle Jackson Carman is back up front. Clemson's staff does feel good about its four new starters, particularly left guard Matt Bockhorst and right tackle Jordan McFadden, who both received extended playing time last season.

DEFENSE Clemson has plenty of talent to replace, most notably All-American Isaiah Simmons, but the good news is that Brent Venables excels at remaking defenses. Last year, the strength of Clemson's defense was its back seven, and Venables got creative, often utilizing three-defensive-linemen sets and moving Simmons all over the field. The result? Clemson finished in the top 10 nationally in total defense for the sixth straight year.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3	at Georgia Tech
Sept.	12	Louisville
Sept.	19	Akron
Sept.	26	Virginia
Oct.	2	at Boston College
Oct.	10	at Florida State
Oct.	17	NC State
Oct.	24	Syracuse
Nov.	7	at Notre Dame
Nov.	14	The Citadel
Nov.	21	at Wake Forest
Nov.	28	South Carolina

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 14-1, 8-0 ACC

Aug.	30	Georgia Tech	W	52-14
Sept.	7	Texas A&M	W	24-10
Sept.	14	at Syracuse	W	41-6
Sept.	21	Charlotte	W	52-10
Sept.	28	at North Carolina	W	21-20
Oct.	12	Florida State	W	45-14
Oct.	19	at Louisville	W	45-10
Oct.	26	Boston College	W	59-7
Nov.	2	Wofford	W	59-14
Nov.	9	at NC State	W	55-10
Nov.	16	Wake Forest	W	52-3
Nov.	30	at South Carolina	W	38-3
Dec.	7	vs. Virginia #	W	62-17
Dec.	28	vs. Ohio State %	W	29-23
Jan.	13	vs. LSU &	L	25-42

#Charlotte %Fiesta Bowl: CFB Playoff Semifinal
&New Orleans: CFB Playoff National Championship

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	ACC	NATIONAL
Scoring	43.9 ppg	1	4
Rushing	240.4 ypg	2	13
Passing	288.3 ypg	1	23
Total	528.7 ypg	1	5
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	13.5 ppg	1	3
Rushing	116.1 ypg	3	19
Passing	172.3 ypg	1	4
Total	288.3 ypg	1	6
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
+15	+1.00	1	8

2020 RECRUITS

1. Bryan Bresee, DT, Damascus, MD
2. Myles Murphy, DE, Powder Springs, GA
3. D.J. Uiagalelei, QB, Bellflower, CA
4. Demarkcus Bowman, RB, Lakeland, FL
5. Trenton Simpson, LB, Charlotte, NC
6. DeMonte Capehart, DT, Hartsville, SC
7. Walker Parks, OT, Lexington, KY
8. Fred Davis II, CB, Jacksonville, FL
9. E.J. Williams, WR, Phenix City, AL
10. Tré Williams, DT, Washington, DC
11. Paul Tchio, OG, Alpharetta, GA
12. Mitchell Mayes, OG, Raleigh, NC
13. Sergio Allen, LB, Fort Valley, GA
14. R.J. Mickens, S, Southlake, TX
15. Kevin Swint, LB, Carrollton, GA
16. Malcolm Greene, S, Highland Springs, VA
17. Bryn Tucker, OG, Knoxville, TN
18. John Williams, OT, Canton, GA
19. Ajou Ajou, WR, Clearwater, FL
20. Kobe Pryor, RB, Cedartown, GA
21. Sage Ennis, TE, Tallahassee, FL
22. Tyler Venables, S, Clemson, SC
23. Trent Howard, OG, Birmingham, AL

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Jacob Kupferman/CSM via AP

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	30.9	44
Defense	25.7	4
Margin	**+5.2**	**10**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	52.5%	6
Defense	34.5%	7
Margin	**+18.0%**	**3**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	7.4	4
Defense	4.5	3
Margin	**+2.9**	**2**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	5.5	5
Defense	4.3	36
Margin	**+1.2**	**11**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	11.3	5
Actual	15	6
Margin	**+3.7**	**34**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

46.6%

Clemson held its opponents to a three-and-out on 46.6 percent of drives last season, which was the highest rate of any defense nationally.

105.37

Clemson led the ACC and ranked second in the country in team passing efficiency defense last season. The Tigers' 105.37 rating was second only to Ohio State (97.50).

-0.38

Expected Points Added is a quantitative measure of the impact of a single play based on down, distance and yard line. Clemson held opponents to -0.38 EPA per play in 2019, which led the nation by a huge margin. No. 2 Georgia posted a -0.28 EPA on average.

This year's strength should be the front four, as Clemson must replace three of the four starters in its secondary and two of its three starting linebackers.

Starting up front, this is a put-up-or-shut-up year for defensive end Xavier Thomas, who is one of the most talented players on Clemson's roster but who underperformed his first two seasons on campus. Look for defensive tackle Tyler Davis to blossom into a star after earning All-ACC honors as a freshman last year. And freshmen defensive linemen Myles Murphy and Bryan Bresee should contribute right away. Both were five-star recruits.

As for the back seven, the two returning starters could be two of the better defenders in the ACC. James Skalski finished second on the team in tackles a season ago in what was a breakout year and should take his game up another level in 2020. Cornerback Derion Kendrick is back after an All-ACC season last year in his first year playing defense after switching over from receiver. There is plenty of young talent capable of stepping into larger roles on Clemson's defense, but right now it is unproven.

SPECIALISTS Kicker B.T. Potter has a huge leg but was up and down last season, connecting on only 13-of-21 tries and spending some time on the bench due to his inconsistency. However, Swinney said Potter was 35-of-36 on field-goal attempts during the abbreviated nine-practice spring session. Punter Will Spiers is back for his senior season after averaging 42.3 yards per punt last year. Clemson has plenty of dynamic playmakers ready to contribute in the return game, including Ngata, Kendrick, Etienne and Rodgers.

FINAL ANALYSIS Clemson is expected to be back in the College Football Playoff for a sixth consecutive season and has as good a shot as anyone to finish 2020 on top. The Tigers should be heavily favored in every regular season game with the exception of their trip to South Bend to face Notre Dame in early November. Clemson will likely be favored by a touchdown or less for that showdown, but if the Tigers can overcome that hurdle, expect them to be squarely in the national championship hunt once again.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)				
WR	**8**	**Justyn Ross (Jr.)**	2	Frank Ladson Jr. (So.)
WR	**3**	**Amari Rodgers (Sr.)**	13	Brannon Spector (Fr.)
WR	10	Joseph Ngata (So.)	17	Cornell Powell (Sr.)
LT	**79**	**Jackson Carman (Jr.)**	72	Blake Vinson (Jr.)
LG	65	Matt Bockhorst (Jr.)	73	Bryn Tucker (Fr.)
C	62	Cade Stewart (Sr.)	54	Mason Trotter (Fr.)
RG	56	Will Putnam (So.)	52	Tayquon Johnson (Fr.)
RT	71	Jordan McFadden (So.)	77	Mitchell Mayes (Fr.)
TE	88	Braden Galloway (Jr.)	**25**	**J.C. Chalk (Sr.)**
QB	**16**	**Trevor Lawrence (Jr.)**	5	D.J. Uiagalelei (Fr.)
RB	**9**	**Travis Etienne (Sr.)**	23	Lyn-J Dixon (Jr.)

DEFENSE (6)				Returning Starters in Bold
DE	**35**	**Justin Foster (Sr.)**	98	Myles Murphy (Fr.)
DT	**13**	**Tyler Davis (So.)**	59	Jordan Williams (Jr.)
DT	**44**	**Nyles Pinckney (Sr.)**	11	Bryan Bresee (Fr.)
DE	**3**	**Xavier Thomas (Jr.)**	5	K.J. Henry (So.)
OLB	6	Mike Jones Jr. (So.)	22	Trenton Simpson (Fr.)
MLB	**47**	**James Skalski (Sr.)**	15	Jake Venables (So.)
OLB	10	Baylon Spector (Jr.)	30	Keith Maguire (Fr.)
CB	**1**	**Derion Kendrick (Jr.)**	23	Andrew Booth Jr. (So.)
CB	31	Mario Goodrich (Jr.)	26	Sheridan Jones (So.)
SS	36	Lannden Zanders (So.)	25	Jalyn Phillips (So.)
FS	24	Nolan Turner (Sr.)	18	Joseph Charleston (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	29	B.T. Potter (Jr.)	**KR**	10	Joseph Ngata (So.)
P	48	Will Spiers (Sr.)	**PR**	1	Derion Kendrick (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Trevor Lawrence	**407**	**268**	**3,665**	**36**	**8**
Chase Brice	85	50	581	4	1
Taisun Phommachanh	**12**	**6**	**56**	**0**	**1**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Travis Etienne	**207**	**1,614**	**7.8**	**19**
Lyn-J Dixon	**104**	**635**	**6.1**	**6**
Trevor Lawrence	**103**	**563**	**5.5**	**9**
Chez Mellusi	**44**	**276**	**6.3**	**3**
Michel Dukes	**32**	**150**	**4.7**	**2**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Justyn Ross	**66**	**865**	**13.1**	**8**
Tee Higgins	59	1,167	19.8	13
Travis Etienne	**37**	**432**	**11.7**	**4**
Amari Rodgers	**30**	**426**	**14.2**	**4**
Diondre Overton	22	352	16.0	3

KICKING: B.T. Potter, 13-21 FGs, 118 pts.
TACKLES: Isaiah Simmons, 104; **James Skalski, 90**
SACKS: Isaiah Simmons, 8.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Tanner Muse, 4

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE TIGERS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP CLEMSON

"They're going to be a national title contender again this year, and they're still a good mile ahead of anyone in the conference. It's really that simple. They reload every year to where you aren't able to point an obvious weakness. ... Trevor Lawrence is a Heisman-caliber quarterback. That's obvious. Tony Elliot is a great play-caller. The offensive line is kind of simple; they're so skilled they don't have to do much in terms of scheme. They're losing a lot of starters, so if you're looking for a question mark, that's maybe one, but they're not going drop that far off. ... (Travis) Etienne is a showstopper, but he actually needs to work on some things to become a truly great back. He's always been a home-run guy because they've never had to lean on the running game with Trevor there. ... What people don't understand about Brent (Venables) is that they're stripping that thing down and rebuilding it year to year. It's really amazing. One year they have all those NFL defensive linemen and they go real simple. Last year they flipped their defense. Three safeties, three-down blitzes from the secondary. They changed so much. They'll do something fundamentally different this year, just wait. He'll look at the personnel and rewrite the plan. ... Year in and out, this is one of the four best programs in college football until further notice."

FLORIDA STATE Seminoles

National Forecast: **35** · ACC Atlantic Prediction: **3** · Projected Record: **7-5, 5-3 ACC**

Marvin Wilson

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Mike Norvell
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 38-15 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Kenny Dillingham
Defensive Coordinator: Adam Fuller
Location: Tallahassee, FL
Stadium: Doak Campbell Stadium (79,560)

KEY SEMINOLES

MARVIN WILSON, DT Missed final four games with hand injury but tied for team high in sacks (5.0) and was second in tackles for a loss (8.5).

TAMORRION TERRY, WR Holds FSU record with five receiving TDs of 70-plus yards; averaged 57.9 yards on nine TDs in 2019, No. 1 nationally.

HAMSAH NASIRILDEEN, S Leading tackler each of past two seasons; recorded career-high 22 tackles in win over Boston College.

KEY LOSSES

CAM AKERS, RB Three-year starter bolted early for the NFL after setting career highs with 1,144 yards and 14 rushing touchdowns.

STANFORD SAMUELS III, CB Productive DB who ranked fourth on team in tackles (60) and second in passes defended (nine).

TRE' MCKITTY, TE Two-year starter transferred to Georgia, where he will be immediately eligible as a grad transfer.

RISING STAR

TRAVIS JAY sat out 2019 after failing to meet NCAA academic requirements but is expected to be a major contributor at defensive back and on special teams. The former four-star prospect would have seen substantial playing time as a freshman if not for the eligibility issue.

Five years removed from the most successful two-year run in Florida State football history, the Seminoles find themselves adjusting to yet another coaching change, and they desperately hope they got this one right.

Former Memphis head coach Mike Norvell replaces Willie Taggart, who was fired after just 21 games. Taggart went 9–12 overall and 0–5 against rivals Miami, Clemson and Florida, and the Seminoles looked so bad in the process that the administration gave him the quick hook despite an $18 million buyout.

The 38-year-old Norvell has only four years of head-coaching experience, but his 38–15 record and high-scoring offenses have FSU hopeful for a return to something more closely resembling Jimbo Fisher's tenure, when the Seminoles won 29 straight games and claimed the 2013 national championship.

In his first few months on campus, Norvell earned rave reviews for his organizational skills and attention to detail — two problem areas during the Taggart regime.

OFFENSE When Norvell and his assistants began installing their fast-paced-but-still-pro-style offense this spring, it was the fourth different system taught to the Seminoles' offensive players in four years. By the fourth different offensive coordinator. And for some players, their fourth different position coach.

Norvell's vision is to marry an up-tempo approach with more sophisticated pro-style concepts. His system was extremely successful at Memphis, where his Tigers averaged 40.4 points last season en route to an American Athletic Conference championship, but his new squad faces major questions at quarterback and on the offensive line.

On paper, it would appear junior James Blackman is a shoo-in at quarterback. He has started 23 games and already ranks among the school's all-time leaders in passing yards (5,079) and touchdowns (41). But his penchant for turnovers (23 career interceptions) and a woeful performance in last December's Sun Bowl open the door for competition from freshmen Chubba Purdy and Tate Rodemaker, as well as athletic sophomore Jordan Travis. Purdy is the higher-rated of the newcomers, but Rodemaker enrolled in January and got a head start.

FSU's biggest problem on offense the past three seasons has been awful line play — only four schools in the country surrendered more sacks than the Seminoles (48) last season — and there will be questions up front again with two new starting tackles. FIU grad transfer Devontay Love-Taylor should provide a boost at one tackle, and the interior of the line has a wealth of experience.

There is talent at the skill positions, led by big-play receiver Tamorrion Terry. Terry averaged 19.8 yards per catch in 2019 and 21.3 the year before; he already has 17 TDs. Three other WRs with starting experience return (Keyshawn Helton, D.J. Matthews and Ontaria Wilson), and the arrival of Texas A&M transfer Jashaun Corbin is a big help at running back. Corbin will battle former five-star recruit Khalan Laborn for the starting job.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	vs. West Virginia #
Sept.	12	Samford
Sept.	19	at Boise State
Oct.	3	at NC State
Oct.	10	Clemson
Oct.	17	Wake Forest
Oct.	24	at Louisville
Oct.	31	Pittsburgh
Nov.	7	at Miami
Nov.	14	Boston College
Nov.	19	at Syracuse
Nov.	28	Florida

#Atlanta

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 6-7, 4-4 ACC

Aug.	31	Boise State		L	31-36
Sept.	7	ULM	(ot)	W	45-44
Sept.	14	at Virginia		L	24-31
Sept.	21	Louisville		W	35-24
Sept.	28	NC State		W	31-13
Oct.	12	at Clemson		L	14-45
Oct.	19	at Wake Forest		L	20-22
Oct.	26	Syracuse		W	35-17
Nov.	2	Miami		L	10-27
Nov.	9	at Boston College		W	38-31
Nov.	16	Alabama State		W	49-12
Nov.	30	at Florida		L	17-40
Dec.	31	vs. Arizona State #		L	14-20

#Sun Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	ACC	NATIONAL
Scoring	27.9 ppg	9	73
Rushing	140.7 ypg	11	93
Passing	267.6 ypg	5	34
Total	408.3 ypg	6	60
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	27.8 ppg	7	67
Rushing	147.5 ypg	8	54
Passing	276.7 ypg	13	119
Total	424.2 ypg	11	90
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
-3	-0.23	9	86

2020 RECRUITS

1. Demorie Tate, CB, Orlando, FL
2. Bryan Robinson, WR, West Palm Beach, FL
3. Chubba Purdy, QB, Gilbert, AZ
4. Jadarius Green-McKnight, S, Fort Myers, FL
5. Lawrance Toafili, RB, Largo, FL
6. Stephen Dix Jr., LB, Orlando, FL
7. Ja'Khi Douglas, WR, Houma, LA
8. Manny Rogers, DT, Jensen Beach, FL
9. Corey Wren, ATH, New Orleans, LA
10. Kentron Poitier, WR, Miami, FL
11. Jayion McCluster, LB, Largo, FL
12. Robert Scott Jr., OT, Conway, AR
13. Sidney Williams, ATH, Mobile, AL
14. Josh Griffis, DE, Bradenton, FL
15. Thomas Shrader, C, Venice, FL
16. Tate Rodemaker, QB, Valdosta, GA
17. Darion Williamson, ATH, Brownsville, TN
18. Zane Herring, OG, Madison, FL
19. La'Damian Webb, RB, Opelika, AL*
20. Carter Boatwright, TE, Moultrie, GA
21. DJ Lundy, ATH, Ocilla, GA
22. Lloyd Willis, OT, Miami, FL
23. TJ Davis, LB, Metter, GA
24. Markeston Douglas, DE, Brownsville, TN
25. Alex Mastromanno, P, Melbourne, Aus.

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Florida State Athletics

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	27.5	114
Defense	31.4	111
Margin	**-3.9**	**115**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	40.2%	91
Defense	42.2%	70
Margin	**-2.0%**	**85**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.8	61
Defense	5.3	41
Margin	**+0.5**	**46**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	5.0	25
Defense	4.0	25
Margin	**+1.0**	**21**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	0.2	65
Actual	-3	85
Margin	**-3.2**	**94**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

67.0

Opponents attempted 504 passes against Florida State in 2019. The Seminoles intercepted eight. Adding the 32 sacks the unit recorded, the FSU defense waited 67.0 passing plays between picks — the longest wait in the ACC and 119th in the country.

46.88%

Though opponents reached the Florida State red zone 64 times in 2019 (third most nationally), the Seminoles defense did a great job keeping opponents out of the end zone. Florida State held its opponents to 30 TDs in the red zone, a 46.88 percent rate that ranked third in the ACC and No. 10 in FBS.

9.15

Florida State was one of the most undisciplined teams in the country in terms of penalties in 2019. The Seminoles were flagged for an average of 9.15 penalties per contest — most in FBS.

DEFENSE Sometimes FSU's offensive woes under Taggart overshadowed the ineptitude of the Seminoles' defense under Harlon Barnett. At Taggart's request, Barnett switched from a 4-3 front to a 3-4 in 2019, and the results were as bad as the year before, and in some respects worse. The Seminoles ranked 90th in total defense and 119th in passing defense.

New coordinator Adam Fuller impressed Norvell during their one season together at Memphis, and he is bringing FSU back to its traditional four-man front. That unit will be anchored in the middle by preseason All-American Marvin Wilson, who returned for his senior year after most expected he would bolt for the NFL, and two other talented tackles — Cory Durden and Robert Cooper. The defensive ends have been wildly inconsistent; senior Janarius Robinson leads the group but had just three sacks last season.

Linebacker play has been a constant struggle for FSU, and the secondary has underperformed as well. Junior cornerback Asante Samuel Jr. (14th in nation with 15 passes defended last fall) and senior safety Hamsah Nasirildeen (team-high 101 tackles) will lead that unit, and FSU hopes Fuller can deliver the same type of improvement that he did at Memphis. In one season, Fuller's unit surrendered 5.5 fewer points and 44.6 fewer yards per game than the year before.

SPECIALISTS Redshirt freshman Ryan Fitzgerald likely has the inside track on replacing four-year starter Ricky Aguayo at placekicker, although walk-on Parker Grothaus will provide a challenge. Punter will see a similar battle. Walk-on Tommy Martin took over early in 2019, but he'll be pressed by Australian import Alex Mastromanno. Helton and Matthews are back for kickoff and punt returns, respectively, but neither has been very successful as of yet. That could change under Norvell, whose teams have been among the best in the nation on special teams.

FINAL ANALYSIS Norvell and his staff should provide FSU with a significant upgrade in coaching, but the deficiencies on the offensive line won't be solved overnight. And unless they see major improvement at quarterback and on defense, it's tough to project more than seven or eight wins against a difficult schedule.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**15**	**Tamorrion Terry (Jr.)**	11	Warren Thompson (So.)
WR	20	Keyshawn Helton (Jr.)	**7**	**D.J. Matthews (Sr.)**
WR	**80**	**Ontaria Wilson (Jr.)**	83	Jordan Young (So.)
LT	76	Darius Washington (Fr.)	71	Chaz Neal (So.)
LG	**59**	**Brady Scott (Jr.)**	56	Zane Herring (Fr.)
C	**51**	**Baveon Johnson (Sr.)**	60	Andrew Boselli (Sr.)
RG	**55**	**Dontae Lucas (So.)**	53	Maurice Smith (Fr.)
RT	58	Devontay Love-Taylor (Sr.)	74	Jay Williams (Sr.)
TE	87	Camren McDonald (Jr.)	19	Wyatt Rector (So.)
QB	**1**	**James Blackman (Jr.)**	13	Jordan Travis (So.)
RB	5	Jashaun Corbin (So.)	4	Khalan Laborn (Jr.)

DEFENSE (10)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**11**	**Janarius Robinson (Sr.)**	55	Derrick McLendon II (Fr.)
NT	**91**	**Robert Cooper (Jr.)**	90	Tru Thompson (So.)
DT	**21**	**Marvin Wilson (Sr.)**	**16**	**Cory Durden (Jr.)**
DE	13	Joshua Kaindoh (Jr.)		Deonte Williams (Sr.)
LB	**56**	**Emmett Rice (Sr.)**	32	Stephen Dix Jr. (Fr.)
LB	**35**	**Leonard Warner III (Sr.)**	42	Jaleel McRae (So.)
LB	**33**	**Amari Gainer (So.)**	20	Kalen DeLoach (So.)
CB	**26**	**Asante Samuel Jr. (Jr.)**	27	Akeem Dent (So.)
CB		Meiko Dotson (Sr.)	18	Travis Jay (Fr.)
S	**6**	**Jaiden Lars-Woodbey (So.)**	44	Brendan Gant (So.)
S	**23**	**Hamsah Nasirildeen (Sr.)**	24	Cyrus Fagan (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	88	Ryan Fitzgerald (Fr.)	**KR**	20	Keyshawn Helton (Jr.)
P	49	Alex Mastromanno (Fr.)	**PR**	7	D.J. Matthews (Sr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
James Blackman	**292**	**184**	**2,339**	**17**	**11**
Alex Hornibrook	122	84	986	7	2
Jordan Travis	**11**	**6**	**79**	**0**	**0**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Cam Akers	231	1,144	5.0	14
Khalan Laborn	**63**	**297**	**4.7**	**4**
Jordan Travis	**23**	**228**	**9.9**	**3**
Deonté Sheffield	**27**	**135**	**5.0**	**1**
James Blackman	**68**	**41**	**0.6**	**1**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Tamorrion Terry	**60**	**1,188**	**19.8**	**9**
D.J. Matthews	**36**	**355**	**9.9**	**3**
Cam Akers	30	225	7.5	4
Tre'Shaun Harrison	27	289	10.7	2

KICKING: Ricky Aguayo, 7-14 FGs, 62 pts.
TACKLES: **Hamsah Nasirildeen, 101; Emmett Rice, 73**
SACKS: **Marvin Wilson, 5.0**
INTERCEPTIONS: **Hamsah Nasirildeen, 2;** Stanford Samuels III, 2

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE SEMINOLES

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP FLORIDA STATE

"Everyone is a little bit nervous about Mike Norvell coming into the league. This won't be an overnight fix, but it is a big-name Florida school, and they can get talent in there faster than most places. ... You knew during the (Willie) Taggart era that they weren't going to be consistent or coached up. They didn't play hard, especially those last few games he was there. ... Right away, they can build on defense. The front seven is talented, and the secondary is good by other schools' standards but maybe not theirs. ... Offensively, we think (James) Blackman can fit what Mike likes to do. It's a versatile offense that wants to be able to bend and change around what the personnel can do. Blackman just made so many bad decisions last year. That's the improvement you can expect immediately. ... Everyone knew that Jimbo (Fisher) took the last years off in recruiting, but it's Florida State. You can only screw that place up so much and not be able to beat two-thirds of this conference. ... The downside could come in attrition. Taggart got a reputation for bringing in attitude guys. So now you're going to see some of those guys pushed out. ... Mike should get two years, but he might not even get that. They're desperate to win again. They want to show that they're not headed down that steady decline like Miami."

LOUISVILLE Cardinals

National Forecast: **30** · ACC Atlantic Prediction: **2** · Projected Record: **8-4, 5-3 ACC**

Javian Hawkins

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Scott Satterfield
Record at School: 8-5 (1 year)
Career Record: 59-29 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Dwayne Ledford
Defensive Coordinators: Bryan Brown, Cort Dennison
Location: Louisville, KY
Stadium: Cardinal Stadium (61,000)

KEY CARDINALS

JAVIAN HAWKINS, RB Durable, fearless, undersized runner who averaged more than 117 yards rushing, tops nationally among all freshmen.

TUTU ATWELL, WR Dazzling burner contributed 11 TD receptions, including six for at least 50 yards.

RODJAY BURNS, LB Versatile playmaker who can rush the quarterback from the edge or stuff tight ends in pass coverage. Burns is also a special teams star who returns punts.

KEY LOSSES

MEKHI BECTON, OT The mammoth left tackle kept the quarterback clean and led the run game.

SETH DAWKINS, WR Dependable team leader who kept the locker room together after the coaching change while contributing three touchdown receptions.

AMONTE CABAN, DE Aggressive edge rusher who proved his value with 32 tackles despite frequent double teams.

RISING STAR

BRADEN SMITH arrives from Northwest Mississippi Community College after also spending a year at Mississippi State. His speed, hands and ability to miss tacklers impressed Scott Satterfield in limited spring ball. He projects as a solid possession receiver who will operate from the slot.

Scott Satterfield changed the arc and image of Louisville football. The Cardinals won eight games in a season when few projected them to win half that many. He flushed the sour paranoia from the Louisville DNA, drawing praise from fans, media and opposing coaches who voted him ACC Coach of the Year.

Satterfield isn't finished — and neither is his challenge. The Cardinals are several recruiting classes away from challenging Clemson atop the ACC Atlantic, but with 15 returning starters, they're positioned to repeat a second-place finish in the lopsided division. "With the vets who played last year, you can see how it's clicking," Satterfield says. "We're putting in a lot of things. I'm still concerned about depth."

OFFENSE There was little that was tricky about the offense Satterfield and coordinator Dwayne Ledford turned into the fourth-most productive in the ACC. They love to run the ball. Snap it. Hand it off. Push forward.

A year after rushing for eight yards as a freshman, Javian Hawkins finished second in the ACC with 1,525 yards, ringing up eight 100-yard games. Hawkins apparently does not realize he is 5'9" and 182 pounds.

Micale Cunningham recovered from a training camp injury to win the quarterback job from Jawon Pass and Evan Conley. Satterfield wants him to improve his 62.4 percent completion percentage, but Cunningham is a productive dual threat who had 22 TD passes with only five picks while running for 482 yards and six scores.

Like Hawkins and Cunningham, Tutu Atwell was overlooked by more prestigious programs because of his size, but those concerns seemed silly after he led the ACC with 98.2 receiving yards per game. As Cunningham improved and Atwell became more comfortable with the offense, he actually averaged 121.7 yards with five touchdowns in the final six games.

Dez Fitzpatrick considered a move to the NFL after converting a half-dozen of his 35 receptions into touchdowns but returned for his final year with the likelihood that he'll get more balls.

Marshon Ford also finished strong, with five TD catches from the hybrid H-back/tight end position in the final four games.

The offensive line must fill the mammoth hole at left tackle after Mekhi Becton departed for the NFL. But Robbie Bell delivered at guard, and junior Adonis Boone filled Becton's left tackle spot effectively in the Music City Bowl. Depth is a concern here.

DEFENSE This is where the serious work remains for Satterfield and coordinator Bryan Brown. The Cardinals finished 12th in the ACC in total defense and were torched for 500 or more yards in six games.

End Tabarius Peterson is the only returning starter on the three-man front, which was ineffective in the pass rush last season, generating 27 sacks, 12th in the ACC.

All four linebackers return, although they'll be asked to upgrade their performances. Rodjay Burns, a transfer

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3	NC State
Sept.	12	at Clemson
Sept.	19	Murray State
Sept.	26	Western Kentucky
Oct.	3	at Syracuse
Oct.	10	at Boston College
Oct.	24	Florida State
Oct.	31	Virginia Tech
Nov.	7	at Virginia
Nov.	14	Wake Forest
Nov.	21	at Notre Dame
Nov.	28	Kentucky

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5, 5-3 ACC

Sept.	3	Notre Dame	L	17-35
Sept.	7	Eastern Kentucky	W	42-0
Sept.	14	Western Kentucky #	W	38-21
Sept.	21	at Florida State	L	24-35
Oct.	5	Boston College	W	41-39
Oct.	12	at Wake Forest	W	62-59
Oct.	19	Clemson	L	10-45
Oct.	26	Virginia	W	28-21
Nov.	9	at Miami	L	27-52
Nov.	16	at NC State	W	34-20
Nov.	23	Syracuse	W	56-34
Nov.	30	at Kentucky	L	13-45
Dec.	30	vs. Mississippi State %	W	38-28

#Nashville, TN %Music City Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	ACC	NATIONAL
Scoring	33.1 ppg	2	30
Rushing	212.8 ypg	3	24
Passing	234.5 ypg	9	65
Total	447.3 ypg	4	24
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	33.4 ppg	14	109
Rushing	205.8 ypg	13	112
Passing	234.2 ypg	9	79
Total	439.9 ypg	12	102
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
-1	-0.08	7	70

2020 RECRUITS

1. Trevor Reid, OT, Milledgeville, GA*
2. Kameron Wilson, LB, Jonesboro, GA
3. Greedy Vance, CB, New Orleans, LA
4. Luke Kandra, OG, Cincinnati, OH
5. Yaya Diaby, DE, Atlanta, GA*
6. Marvin Dallas, LB, Milledgeville, GA*
7. Timothy Lawson, OT, Fort Washington, MD
8. Lovie Jenkins, S, Ocoee, FL
9. Tee Webb, QB, Cartersville, GA
10. Christian Fitzpatrick, WR, Southfield, MI
11. Jared Dawson, DT, Collierville, TN
12. Jordan Watkins, ATH, Louisville, KY
13. Zay Peterson, LB, Clayton, NC
14. Kobe Baynes, OG, Jacksonville, FL
15. Dezmond Tell, DT, Hampton, GA
16. Josh Minkins Jr., S, Louisville, KY
17. Henry Bryant, DT, Delray Beach, FL
18. Duane Martin, ATH, Laurens, SC
19. Nicholas Malito, WR, Girard, OH
20. Braden Smith, WR, Flowood, MS*
21. Marqui Lowery, CB, Charlotte, NC
22. Austin Collins, OG, Perrysburg, OH
23. Desmond Daniels, TE, Fairburn, GA
24. Brock Travelstead, K, Dallas, GA

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Tom DiPace

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	29.1	82
Defense	30.4	93
Margin	**-1.3**	**91**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	42.8%	62
Defense	43.8%	88
Margin	**-1.0%**	**79**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.7	12
Defense	6.3	111
Margin	**+0.4**	**59**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	5.2	18
Defense	5.0	108
Margin	**+0.2**	**59**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	3.8	35
Actual	-1	69
Margin	**-4.8**	**105**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

11.1%

Louisville surrendered a sack 11.1 percent of the time on standard downs (first down, second-and-7 or fewer, third-and-4 or fewer, fourth-and-4 or fewer) in 2019, which was the highest rate in the ACC and No. 128 in FBS.

74.51%

If an opponent entered Louisville's red zone last season, it typically punched the ball into the end zone. The Cardinals allowed 38 touchdowns on 51 opportunities in the red zone last season, a 74.51 percent TD rate that ranked as the worst in the ACC and 126th in the country.

17.47%

The Cardinals surrendered 87 rushing attempts of 10 yards or more across 498 snaps against the run in 2019. The 17.47 percent explosive run rate Louisville surrendered was the worst in the ACC and ranked 126th in the country.

from Ohio State who played high school ball in Louisville, emerged as a forceful leader, capable of handling multiple assignments.

C.J. Avery, listed at 5'11", compensates for his size with speed and fearless competitive play. Avery led the team with 93 tackles.

Linebacker Dorian Etheridge was recruited during the Bobby Petrino Era — and he was slower to adjust to the new scheme. The Cards need Etheridge to return to his freshman-level play, when he led the team with 83 tackles.

Two starters return in the secondary, but there is considerable work to do. Louisville ranked last in the ACC in allowing 31 touchdown passes and posted only seven interceptions.

Russ Yeast improved his tackling and ball-hawking skills and is capable of playing cornerback or safety. Cornerbacks Anthony Johnson and Chandler Jones must up their contributions.

SPECIALISTS The Cardinals ranked third in the ACC in punt returns and second in kickoff returns. With Burns and Atwell back to return punts and the elusive Hassan Hall (30.5 yards per attempt) to handle kickoffs, the Cardinals should still be ahead in both categories.

But there will be turnover in the kicking game. Ryan Chalifoux took over for the injured Blanton Creque at placekicker late last season. He missed 2-of-3 field-goal attempts as well as 3-of-25 extra points. Satterfield planned to use spring practice to settle on a punter, but no decision was made before spring drills were canceled.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Cardinals' six-win improvement ranked as the best turnaround of any Power 5 program and proved that the decline of the final two seasons of the Petrino Era was over.

The return of Cunningham, Hawkins and Atwell should enable the Cardinals to build upon their offensive efficiency. They'll have to prove they can replace Becton and build depth on the offensive line.

Defensively, there is work to do, despite the return of seven starters. Satterfield will consider using any of the 11 defensive recruits who are ready to contribute. With a finishing stretch against Virginia Tech, Virginia, Wake Forest, Notre Dame and Kentucky, the Cardinals must start strong to match last season.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR	81	Braden Smith (So.)	18	Justin Marshall (Jr.)
WR	**7**	**Dez Fitzpatrick (Sr.)**	89	Christian Fitzpatrick (Fr.)
WR	**1**	**Tutu Atwell (Jr.)**	86	Corey Reed (Jr.)
LT	74	Adonis Boone (Jr.)	63	Zach Williamson (Fr.)
LG	**55**	**Caleb Chandler (Jr.)**	78	Jackson Gregory (Fr.)
C	**66**	**Cole Bentley (Sr.)**	71	Joshua Black (Fr.)
RG	**75**	**Robbie Bell (Sr.)**	70	Emmanual Sowders (Jr.)
RT	56	Renato Brown (Fr.)	52	Tim Lawson (Fr.)
TE	**83**	**Marshon Ford (So.)**	84	Dez Melton (Fr.)
QB	**3**	**Micale Cunningham (Jr.)**	4	Jawon Pass (Sr.)
RB	**10**	**Javian Hawkins (So.)**	19	Hassan Hall (Jr.)

DEFENSE (7)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	57	Dayna Kinnaird (Jr.)	98	Ja'Darien Boykin (Fr.)
NT	90	Jared Goldwire (Sr.)	91	Derek Dorsey (Sr.)
DE	**29**	**Tabarius Peterson (Sr.)**	92	Malik Clark (Jr.)
OLB	**22**	**Yasir Abdullah (Jr.)**	15	Kameron Wilson (Fr.)
MLB	**17**	**Dorian Etheridge (Sr.)**	5	Robert Hicks (Jr.)
MLB	**9**	**C.J. Avery (Sr.)**	7	Monty Montgomery (Jr.)
OLB	**10**	**Rodjay Burns (Sr.)**	11	Nick Okeke (Jr.)
CB	27	Anthony Johnson (Jr.)	12	Marlon Character (Sr.)
CB	**2**	**Chandler Jones (Jr.)**	28	Jamel Starks (Fr.)
SS	**3**	**Russ Yeast (Sr.)**	38	Jack Fagot (Jr.)
FS	33	Isaiah Hayes (Sr.)	1	Lovie Jenkins (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	37	Ryan Chalifoux (Jr.)	**KR**	19	Hassan Hall (Jr.)
P	40	Brock Travelstead (Fr.)	**PR**	10	Rodjay Burns (Sr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Micale Cunningham	178	111	2,061	22	5
Evan Conley	71	40	613	4	3
Jawon Pass	46	24	330	4	1

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Javian Hawkins	264	1,525	5.8	9
Hassan Hall	108	501	4.6	5
Micale Cunningham	122	482	4.0	6
Jawon Pass	20	104	5.2	2
Evan Conley	30	88	2.9	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Tutu Atwell	69	1,272	18.4	11
Dez Fitzpatrick	35	635	18.1	6
Marshon Ford	20	292	14.6	7
Seth Dawkins	16	348	21.8	3
Justin Marshall	6	135	22.5	0

KICKING: Blanton Creque, 8-11 FGs, 57 pts.
TACKLES: **C.J. Avery, 93; Rodjay Burns, 83**
SACKS: **Monty Montgomery, 5.0**
INTERCEPTIONS: 7 players tied with 1

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE CARDINALS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP LOUISVILLE

"Scott (Satterfield) did an amazing job with one of the least talented rosters in Power 5. Those kids quit on (Bobby) Petrino and came alive last year. They want to play for Scott. They're still pretty awful on defense, and they want to lead with offense first, but there's a long road ahead if they're going to be a program in that tier just below Clemson. ... They need talent on defense at every position. Schematically they're OK, pretty simple, it looks like they want to be the kind of staff that throws everything into signing athletes and scheming simple concepts around that, not necessarily fitting talent to a style or scheme. ... Micale Cunningham has a lot of upside and should only get better, so long as they can keep the offensive line serviceable. Think of him right now as the poor man's Lamar Jackson for them. They have to place better athletes around him. ... Scott is calling the plays and doing a good job of it. They do great stuff out of play action, and they can take some shots on you when you aren't expecting it. ... We're curious what the ceiling is here. Bobby fell apart before they could figure it out there, because it's not the old Big East job. How far can you take this program in this division? They're really going to have to work overtime to get the talent you need to be better than third in this division year in and out."

NC STATE Wolfpack

National Forecast: **57** · ACC Atlantic Prediction: **5** · Projected Record: **6-6, 3-5 ACC**

Bam Knight

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Dave Doeren
Record at School: 47-42 (7 years)
Career Record: 70-46 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Tim Beck
Defensive Coordinator: Tony Gibson
Location: Raleigh, NC
Stadium: Carter-Finley Stadium (57,583)

KEY WOLFPACK

BAM KNIGHT, RB The sneaky-tough sophomore has game-changing speed.

PAYTON WILSON, LB Talented sophomore tied for team lead in tackles (69), and he's only beginning to scratch the surface of his potential.

THAYER THOMAS, WR When he was healthy in the first part of the season, he was a threat as a receiver, punt returner and even as a passer.

KEY LOSSES

LARRELL MURCHISON, DT Versatile defensive lineman played inside and out and led the team in sacks (seven) and TFLs (12).

NICK MCCLOUD, CB An emotional leader, McCloud missed all but two games with a knee injury and then decided to transfer.

TABARI HINES, WR Grad transfer from Oregon offered speed at receiver. Had modest numbers but kept defenses honest.

RISING STAR

PORTER ROOKS was the top-rated recruit in the class and potentially fills one of the biggest needs on offense, as NC State lacked a true No. 1 receiver last year. It might take Rooks some time to get there, but he enrolled early and impressed the coaches during abbreviated spring workouts.

After five straight winning seasons, NC State took a step back in 2019. Eighth-year head coach Dave Doeren is hoping that with some improved injury luck and a revamped staff, he can get the Wolfpack back to their winning ways.

It's going to be a challenge to significantly recover from a 4–8 downturn with what is still a young roster, a more difficult schedule and with spring practice mostly wiped out by the COVID-19 crisis.

Doeren hired five new coaches, will have two new primary coordinators and has only one assistant left from the 2018 staff, when the team posted its second straight nine-win season. "There were just some things I wanted to do differently and felt like we needed to do differently to move forward," Doeren says.

OFFENSE Tim Beck comes from Texas to take over an offense that struggled to find stability at quarterback and score points. The Wolfpack dropped to No. 107 in the country in scoring offense and didn't score 28 points in an ACC game. There were multiple injuries up front (including to both starting tackles) and at running back, and Doeren went through two starting quarterbacks before settling in the eighth game on Devin Leary.

The redshirt sophomore, a highly rated recruit out of New Jersey in 2018, showed some promise when he didn't try to do too much. But he has to improve his accuracy (48.1 completion percentage) and decision-making.

Doeren went into the spring with Leary as the designated starter, but freshman Ty Evans, who redshirted last season, and true freshman Ben Finley, whose older brother Ryan was the Wolfpack's starter for three years, will be given a chance to win the job.

Running back was NC State's strength last year and should be again. Bam Knight is the team's best playmaker. He led the team with 745 rushing yards and five touchdowns as a freshman.

The offensive line loses only one starter and gets tackles Justin Witt and Tyrone Riley back from injuries. The line will also get a boost from the return of blocking tight end Dylan Autenrieth, whose knee injury in Week 3 really was the start of the decline of the season.

Receiver was a weak spot last season with Emeka Emezie's inability to move up from supporting cast to a lead role. Emezie led the team in receptions (56) and receiving yards (576), but also in dropped passes. A healthy Thayer Thomas, who finished with 31 catches for 334 yards, and C.J. Riley would go a long way to boost a passing game that fell to No. 67 in the country.

DEFENSE Tony Gibson was on the staff last season and will take over as the primary coordinator and defensive play-caller. NC State switched to a 3-3-5 stack last season, and with a surplus of linebackers, Gibson is expected to keep the same scheme this season. The Wolfpack return four starters on defense, not including promising linebackers Payton Wilson and Drake Thomas, who figure to be a big part of Gibson's plan.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3	at Louisville
Sept.	12	Mississippi State
Sept.	19	at Troy
Sept.	26	Delaware
Oct.	3	Florida State
Oct.	10	Duke
Oct.	17	at Clemson
Oct.	31	Wake Forest
Nov.	7	Boston College
Nov.	14	at Syracuse
Nov.	21	Liberty
Nov.	27	at North Carolina

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 4-8, 1-7 ACC

Aug.	31	East Carolina	W	34-6
Sept.	7	Western Carolina	W	41-0
Sept.	14	at West Virginia	L	27-44
Sept.	21	Ball State	W	34-23
Sept.	28	at Florida State	L	13-31
Oct.	11	Syracuse	W	16-10
Oct.	19	at Boston College	L	24-45
Nov.	2	at Wake Forest	L	10-44
Nov.	9	Clemson	L	10-55
Nov.	16	Louisville	L	20-34
Nov.	21	at Georgia Tech	L	26-28
Nov.	30	North Carolina	L	10-41

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	ACC	NATIONAL
Scoring	22.1 ppg	12	107
Rushing	151.2 ypg	9	75
Passing	229.1 ypg	10	67
Total	380.3 ypg	11	88
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	30.1 ppg	10	82
Rushing	143.4 ypg	6	50
Passing	255.5 ypg	11	103
Total	398.9 ypg	8	72
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
-13	-1.08	14	126

2020 RECRUITS

1. Porter Rooks, WR, Charlotte, NC
2. Davin Vann, DT, Cary, NC
3. Jayland Parker, LB, Macon, GA
4. Aydan White, CB, Arden, NC
5. Ben Finley, QB, Phoenix, AZ
6. Nehki Meredith, S, Virginia Beach, VA
7. Devon Betty, LB, Fort Lauderdale, FL
8. Anthony Carter Jr., OG, Matthews, NC
9. Devan Boykin, CB, Jamestown, NC
10. Ethan Lane, C, Lawrenceville, GA
11. Anthony Smith, WR, Huntingtown, MD
12. Sean Hill, OG, Snellville, GA
13. Joshua Pierre-Louis, CB, North Palm Beach, FL
14. Chris Scott, WR, Dacula, GA
15. Nick Booker-Brown, DT, Houston, TX
16. Jalen Coit, WR, Cheraw, SC
17. Claude Larkins Jr., DE, Hollywood, FL
18. Joshua Crabtree, WR, Wake Forest, NC
19. Patrick Matan, OT, Washington, DC
20. Ezemdi Udoh, TE, Fayetteville, NC
21. Ian Williams, K, Matthews, NC

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Gene Galin/NC State Athletics

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	26.9	121
Defense	31.0	105
Margin	**-4.1**	**116**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	41.3%	75
Defense	41.9%	66
Margin	**-0.6%**	**75**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.2	107
Defense	5.6	59
Margin	**-0.4**	**91**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.0	110
Defense	4.8	96
Margin	**-0.8**	**111**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-10.5	130
Actual	-13	126
Margin	**-2.5**	**89**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

31.46

NC State struggled to get the ball into the end zone in 2019. The Wolfpack averaged 31.46 plays between touchdowns last season, which was the longest wait in the ACC and ranked No. 120 in the country.

5.02%

Wolfpack ball carriers had trouble holding on to the football last season. NC State fumbled on 5.02 percent of its rushing attempts in 2019, which was the highest rate in the ACC and ranked No. 123 nationally.

0.89%

The NC State defense posted a 0.89 percent interception rate in 2019, which was the lowest in the country. Including sacks, the Wolfpack picked off just four passes in 447 passing situations.

Vi Jones, a transfer from USC, gives Gibson a lot of options to mix and match at linebacker, which is good because the defensive front could be an issue. Wilson, one of the top recruits to sign during Doeren's tenure, missed his first season with a knee injury, but he was a bright spot with a team-best 69 tackles last season. He also had five tackles for loss and an interception.

The secondary was beaten up from the season opener, and Doeren struggled to find enough healthy bodies to plug into the lineup. Safety Tanner Ingle is a sure tackler but struggles in coverage. Chris Ingram, the best option at corner, got hurt midway through the season and is recovering from a knee injury.

Up front, Doeren is hoping talented defensive tackle Alim McNeill bounces back from an average sophomore season and that DT Joshua Harris and DE Savion Jackson can turn their recruiting promise into production in their second year in the program.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Christopher Dunn built on a strong freshman season with a great sophomore campaign. He made 21-of-24 field-goal attempts and all 28 of his PATs. Dunn has turned what was a major weakness in the program into a strength. Punter Trenton Gill was a surprise starter but more than held his own with 47.6-yard average. Thayer Thomas played the last third of the season with a balky hamstring but was a consistent threat on the punt return unit. There was no such game-breaker on kickoff returns, which has been a problem spot since Nyheim Hines left for the NFL three years ago.

FINAL ANALYSIS There's young talent in the program, but the years NC State expects to be back at a high level are the 2021 and '22 seasons, when its best recruiting classes will be juniors and seniors. This team, which has some of the same deficiencies as last year's group, needs Leary (or another QB) to make a big jump under Beck and for the defense to get a grip on Gibson's scheme.

The 1–7 ACC record didn't help morale, nor did the six straight losses to close the season. Under normal circumstances, Doeren would be coaching for his job this season, but with the financial uncertainty created by COVID-19, he might get another year if NC State struggles again.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**86**	**Emeka Emezie (Sr.)**	14	Porter Rooks (Fr.)
WR	**87**	**Thayer Thomas (Jr.)**	85	Keyon Lesane (So.)
WR	**88**	**Devin Carter (So.)**	19	C.J. Riley (Sr.)
LT	**79**	**Ikem Ekwonu (So.)**	53	Derrick Eason (So.)
LG	**71**	**Joe Sculthorpe (Sr.)**	52	Timothy McKay (Fr.)
C	**50**	**Grant Gibson (Jr.)**	54	Dylan McMahon (Fr.)
RG	**56**	**Bryson Speas (Jr.)**	68	Charles Fletcher (Jr.)
RT	67	Justin Witt (Sr.)	55	Tyrone Riley (Sr.)
TE	6	Cary Angeline (Sr.)	42	Dylan Autenrieth (Sr.)
QB	13	Devin Leary (So.)	15	Ty Evans (Fr.)
RB	**24**	**Bam Knight (So.)**	8	Ricky Person Jr. (Jr.)

DEFENSE (4)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	28	Ibrahim Kante (Jr.)	90	Savion Jackson (So.)
DT	**29**	**Alim McNeill (Jr.)**	44	Joshua Harris (Fr.)
DE	56	Val Martin (Sr.)	96	Dante Johnson (Jr.)
OLB	31	Vi Jones (Jr.)	**2**	**Louis Acceus (Sr.)**
MLB	**41**	**Isaiah Moore (Jr.)**	32	Drake Thomas (So.)
OLB	11	Payton Wilson (So.)	5	C.J. Hart (So.)
CB	19	Cecil Powell (So.)	25	Shyheim Battle (Fr.)
CB	8	Teshaun Smith (Jr.)	3	Taiyon Palmer (So.)
S	13	Tyler Baker-Williams (Jr.)	20	Jalen Frazier (Fr.)
S	**10**	**Tanner Ingle (Jr.)**	21	Khalid Martin (Fr.)
S	6	Jakeen Harris (So.)	22	Isaiah Stallings (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	32	Christopher Dunn (Jr.)	**KR**	10	Tanner Ingle (Jr.)
P	97	Trenton Gill (Jr.)	**PR**	87	Thayer Thomas (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Devin Leary	210	101	1,219	8	5
Matthew McKay	105	86	910	3	1
Bailey Hockman	97	54	546	1	4

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Bam Knight	136	745	5.5	5
Jordan Houston	101	526	5.2	2
Ricky Person Jr.	61	229	3.8	3
Matthew McKay	25	63	2.5	4
Keyon Lesane	5	60	12.0	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Emeka Emezie	56	576	10.3	2
Tabari Hines	37	402	10.9	2
Devin Carter	32	456	14.3	0
Thayer Thomas	31	334	10.8	3
Cary Angeline	25	379	15.2	5

KICKING: **Christopher Dunn, 21-24 FGs, 91 pts.**
TACKLES: **Payton Wilson, 69; Tanner Ingle, 69**
SACKS: Larrell Murchison, 7.0
INTERCEPTIONS: **Chris Ingram, 2**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE WOLFPACK

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP NC STATE

"They could be in trouble. There's some bad mojo around the program. They've turned over a lot of people in the building. This is the job people expect to open in the league. … They're very physical on the line, and that's the identity here. They must preach that to the kids because on film it looks like physicality is more important than technique or scheme. The wide receivers are OK, but no one stands out. The play-calling was uninspired; they could use some creativity here because they aren't going to out-talent the top-half teams. … Defensively they're interesting. They ran a 3-3 stack a year ago, you need good corners for that which they had, then they went in Tampa 2 and couldn't stop anyone running. … They're not doing well in recruiting; that's something the rest of the conference has noticed. It used to be that they would be able to fight for any kid that wasn't a national prospect; now they're getting shut out as soon as UNC or Clemson starts recruiting, let alone an SEC school. … We saw a lot of contributors on their defense in the portal. That's caused some suspicion. … Dave (Doeren) was a guy who almost had an SEC job, and now it looks like he won't be able to keep it together. They're far from those nine-win teams. If they make a move, it's a job a lot of coaches would jump at. You can figure it out there."

SYRACUSE Orange

National Forecast: **67** · ACC Atlantic Prediction: **6** · Projected Record: **6-6, 2-6 ACC**

Andre Cisco

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Dino Babers
Record at School: 23-26 (4 years)
Career Record: 60-42 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Sterlin Gilbert
Defensive Coordinator: Tony White
Location: Syracuse, NY
Stadium: Carrier Dome (49,262)

KEY ORANGE

ANDRE CISCO, DB The FBS active leader in interceptions has uncanny ball skills, anticipation and a work ethic that drives those around him.

ANDRE SZMYT, K Szmyt followed up his Lou Groza Award-winning season by going 17-of-20 on field goals last year.

AIRON SERVAIS, OT Servais should bolster SU's offense simply by being the full-time starter on Tommy DeVito's blindside.

KEY LOSSES

TRISHTON JACKSON, WR The Michigan State transfer turned in a 1,000-yard season, serving as DeVito's clear No. 1 target last year.

ALTON ROBINSON, DE He may not have been as productive as many expected during his senior year, but he faced regular double-teams and provided consistent pressure.

STERLING HOFRICHTER, P A three-time captain, The Hof served as a field-flipping weapon.

RISING STAR

JAWHAR JORDAN turned heads in practice as a true freshman last year, running away from the first-team defense time and time again. After flashing those 4.37-second wheels to the public late in the season, he's expected to be a regular contributor as a redshirt freshman in 2020.

Dino Babers was ready for his program to make a jump last year.

After going 10–3 for Syracuse's best finish in 17 years, the Orange entered 2019 nationally ranked and equipped with dreams of chasing a spot in the College Football Playoff. Then SU crumpled at Maryland in Week 2, saw Tommy DeVito become the most-sacked quarterback in the nation and fired its defensive coordinator after nine games en route to a 5–7 finish.

So Babers sought change this offseason, hiring former Eastern Illinois understudy Sterlin Gilbert as offensive coordinator and bringing in defensive coordinator Tony White to run the 3-3-5 that he learned at Arizona State.

But the coronavirus pandemic ended spring practice after only three sessions, leaving Syracuse in limbo. The Orange want to morph and compete at the top of the ACC Atlantic Division in 2020. Will the team even have time to implement its alterations?

OFFENSE DeVito returns for his redshirt junior season as one of only two Power 5 signal-callers in the last decade to complete 63 percent of his passes, produce 20-plus touchdowns, record eight or fewer turnovers and be sacked at least 35 times.

To put it bluntly: He never had a chance to prove his readiness behind an offensive line that lost one starter to a head injury in Week One and saw another leave the program midseason.

Three starters up front are back this season, and the growth of the first-year starters from 2019 will be critical in determining whether Babers and Gilbert can get their up-tempo offense back in gear. Florida guard transfer Chris Bleich could provide further relief if the NCAA approves his waiver for immediately eligibility.

DeVito is flanked by deep running back and tight end groups. Both positions have reliable veterans like Abdul Adams, Aaron Hackett and Chris Elmore as well as second-year big-play threats in Jawhar Jordan and Luke Benson. At wide receiver, though, SU must replace its top producer in Trishton Jackson, who left early for the NFL Draft, as well as slot receiver Sean Riley.

Junior wideout Taj Harris is the best bet for a breakout year if he and DeVito can nail down timing and option routes. Senior receiver Nykeim Johnson also brings experience, as well as top-end speed and reliable hands. Who else joins them in the starting lineup will be one of the primary position battles to watch during preseason camp.

DEFENSE With seven starters gone and a new scheme yet to be installed, 2020 projects as a transitional year on this side of the ball.

The coaching staff's hope is that a base version of this complex and nuanced system will allow SU's best athletes to confuse opposing quarterbacks. A full spring would have allowed players to settle into positions and begin to learn their new terminology and techniques. Instead, SU never got into full pads and still had coaches reminding players of their keys and checks before each snap.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	at Boston College
Sept.	12	at Rutgers
Sept.	19	Colgate
Sept.	26	at Western Michigan
Oct.	3	Louisville
Oct.	17	Liberty
Oct.	24	at Clemson
Oct.	31	Georgia Tech
Nov.	7	at Wake Forest
Nov.	14	NC State
Nov.	19	Florida State
Nov.	28	at Pittsburgh

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 5-7, 2-6 ACC

Aug.	31	at Liberty	W	24-0
Sept.	7	at Maryland	L	20-63
Sept.	14	Clemson	L	6-41
Sept.	21	Western Michigan	W	52-33
Sept.	28	Holy Cross	W	41-3
Oct.	11	at NC State	L	10-16
Oct.	18	Pittsburgh	L	20-27
Oct.	26	at Florida State	L	17-35
Nov.	2	Boston College	L	27-58
Nov.	16	at Duke	W	49-6
Nov.	23	at Louisville	L	34-56
Nov.	30	Wake Forest (ot)	W	39-30

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	ACC	NATIONAL
Scoring	28.3 ppg	8	69
Rushing	154.0 ypg	7	71
Passing	240.6 ypg	8	60
Total	394.6 ypg	7	71
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	30.7 ppg	11	88
Rushing	201.6 ypg	12	109
Passing	262.5 ypg	12	110
Total	464.1 ypg	13	115
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
+9	+0.75	2	13

2020 RECRUITS

1. Latarie Kinsler, DE, Pahokee, FL
2. Robert Hanna, S, Miami, FL
3. Damien Alford, WR, Hollywood, FL
4. Steven Mahar Jr., TE, Rochester, NY
5. Sean Tucker, RB, Towson, MD
6. Garth Barclay, OT, York, PA
7. Ben Labrosse, S, Montreal, QC
8. Stefon Thompson, LB, Charlotte, NC
9. Ja'Vontae Williams, WR, Belle Glade, FL
10. Marlowe Wax, RB, Baltimore, MD
11. Justin Barron, ATH, Suffield, CT
12. Ja'Had Carter, ATH, Matthews, NC
13. Kevin Lemieux, DE, Byfield, MA
14. Trebor Pena, ATH, Oakhurst, NJ
15. Leon Lowery, DE, North Brunswick, NJ
16. Joshua Ilaoa, DT, Charlotte, NC
17. Chase Atkinson, S, Blythewood, SC
18. Dillon Markiewicz, QB, McKinney, TX
19. James Williams, K, Athens, GA
20. JaCobian Morgan, QB, Canton, MS
21. Mark Petry, OT, Mainz, Ger.*
22. Maximilian Mang, TE, Nuthetal, Ger.

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Syracuse Athletics

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	32.3	15
Defense	27.3	19
Margin	**+5.0**	**15**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	36.5%	117
Defense	43.4%	82
Margin	**-6.9%**	**110**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.2	102
Defense	6.1	94
Margin	**-0.9**	**113**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.2	89
Defense	4.6	81
Margin	**-0.4**	**93**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	9.0	11
Actual	9	14
Margin	**0.0**	**63**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

4.17

Syracuse quarterbacks were sacked an average of 4.17 times per contest in 2019, which was the most among all Power 5 teams and better than only three other FBS units.

42.16

Syracuse was one of the best net punting teams in college football in 2019. The Orange averaged 43.86 yards per punt last season and held opponents to just 1.70 yards per punt return (fifth best in the country). As a result, Syracuse netted 42.16 yards per punt, which ranked No. 3 nationally.

73.9

Syracuse was penalized for an average of 73.9 yards per game in 2019. The Orange lost the most yardage to penalty of any ACC team and ranked No. 128 in FBS.

When official team activities resume, White will need to lean hard on a group of assistants who have never coached the 3-3-5 as well as veteran leadership. The latter starts in the secondary where junior safety Andre Cisco returns as the FBS active leader in interceptions (12). Two other juniors — corner/nickel Trill Williams and corner Ifeatu Melifonwu — have all the tools to contend for All-ACC standing.

In the box, there are more pressing questions. SU graduated its starting linebackers for the third straight season, leaving sophomore Mikel Jones as the only returner with significant base formation experience. Will White call on bigger 'backers like Tyrell Richards and Geoff Cantin-Arku — one inside linebacker must be ready to put his hand down and create an event front — or will a smaller, faster player like Jones or Lee Kpogba crack the starting lineup? The former pairing opened the spring with the first team.

Up front, Syracuse loses three starters, including top edge rushers Alton Robinson and Kendall Coleman. Redshirt senior McKinley Williams may be the team's only capable nose tackle, and he missed most of 2019 due to a foot injury, though Josh Black and Kingsley Jonathan are ideal physical fits for ends in the system.

SPECIALISTS Syracuse loses one of the nation's best punters in Sterling Hofrichter but returns one of the nation's best placekickers in Andre Szmyt. Szmyt is 47-for-54 on field goals over two seasons, earning the Lou Groza Award as a redshirt freshman in 2019. The Orange signed a scholarship punter in James Williams, who is viewed as the likely starter for the fall.

SU must also determine a new primary return man with Riley gone. Jordan, who may be the fastest player on the roster, is a strong candidate, along with Johnson and Trill Williams.

FINAL ANALYSIS Syracuse has the tools to rebound in 2020, but a thin margin for error has been made thinner by the coronavirus pandemic. A team that needs time to learn and grow is facing an uncertain future.

If and when the season begins, a return to postseason play for the Orange will hinge on improved offensive line play as well as opportunistic tendencies from a havoc-oriented defense.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (5)

WR	**80**	**Taj Harris (Jr.)**	18	Ed Hendrix (So.)
WR	82	Nykeim Johnson (Sr.)	81	Cameron Jordan (Jr.)
WR	85	Courtney Jackson (Fr.)	14	Anthony Queeley (So.)
LT	**68**	**Airon Servais (Sr.)**	51	Anthony Red (Fr.)
LG	**69**	**Patrick Davis (Sr.)**	56	Darius Tisdale (Jr.)
C	**52**	**Carlos Vettorello (So.)**	71	Josh Kosciol (Fr.)
RG	57	Dakota Davis (Jr.)	54	Austin Chandler (Jr.)
RT	60	Matthew Bergeron (So.)	72	Mark Petry (So.)
TE	89	Aaron Hackett (Sr.)	5	Chris Elmore (Sr.)
QB	**13**	**Tommy DeVito (Jr.)**	17	Rex Culpepper (Sr.)
RB	23	Abdul Adams (Sr.)	25	Jawhar Jordan (Fr.)

DEFENSE (4)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**85**	**Josh Black (Sr.)**	93	Caleb Okechukwu (So.)
NT	98	McKinley Williams (Sr.)	52	Curtis Harper (Jr.)
DE	57	Kingsley Jonathan (Sr.)	91	Zach Morton (Jr.)
OLB	42	Tyrell Richards (Jr.)	21	Lee Kpogba (So.)
MLB	13	Mikel Jones (So.)	31	Geoff Cantin-Arku (So.)
OLB	17	Steve Linton (Fr.)	12	Latarie Kinsler (Fr.)
CB	**6**	**Trill Williams (Jr.)**	14	Garrett Williams (Fr.)
CB	**23**	**Ifeatu Melifonwu (Jr.)**	10	Adrian Cole (Fr.)
ROV	22	Allen Stritzinger (Sr.)	26	Aman Greenwood (Fr.)
SS	34	Eric Coley (Jr.)	20	Cam Jonas (So.)
FS	**7**	**Andre Cisco (Jr.)**	15	Neil Nunn (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	91	Andre Szmyt (Jr.)	**KR**	25	Jawhar Jordan (Fr.)
P		James Williams (Fr.)	**PR**	25	Jawhar Jordan (Fr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Tommy DeVito	**337**	**213**	**2,360**	**19**	**5**
Clayton Wech	68	36	523	4	2
Taj Harris	**2**	**1**	**4**	**0**	**0**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Moe Neal	170	846	5.0	7
Jarveon Howard	**76**	**337**	**4.4**	**3**
Abdul Adams	**87**	**336**	**3.9**	**3**
Tommy DeVito	**112**	**122**	**1.1**	**2**
Jawhar Jordan	**15**	**105**	**7.0**	**1**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Trishton Jackson	66	1,023	15.5	11
Taj Harris	**37**	**559**	**15.1**	**2**
Sean Riley	36	275	7.6	1
Moe Neal	29	242	8.3	0

KICKING: **Andre Szmyt, 17-20 FGs, 90 pts.**
TACKLES: Lakiem Williams, 110; Andrew Armstrong, 78
SACKS: Brandon Berry, 5.5
INTERCEPTIONS: **Andre Cisco, 5**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE ORANGE

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP SYRACUSE

"It could be a long year. They looked more talented in past years than in 2019, and the supply is only going downhill. That system pressures the quarterback to be such a smart, good player, that when the right talent isn't in there they automatically put themselves in trouble. What (offensive coordinator) Sterlin (Gilbert) should be able to do is help (Tommy) DeVito read things a little better, maybe simplify some decision-making. ... Their offense needs to do something different. The general perception in the P5 is that tempo isn't as difficult to defend as it was five or six years ago. It feels like a novelty now, at least the way they run it. ... The one bright spot in their recruiting is that they have some big, athletic receivers and some more behind them. They're losing their top production guys, but this is their one real depth position. ... They have to change their approach to recruiting if they're going to survive in the ACC. The level of talent they're bringing in isn't going to be able to run this system effectively enough to win consistently. ... Right now you can define (Dino Babers') time there as a single breakout season where he had a quarterback that was a unique talent in (Eric) Dungey. You can't make a pattern of that. The defensive and offensive quality hasn't really shown improvement outside of having a hot hand one year."

WAKE FOREST Demon Deacons

National Forecast: **45** · ACC Atlantic Prediction: **4** · Projected Record: **7-5, 4-4 ACC**

Sage Surratt

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Dave Clawson
Record at School: 36-40 (4 years)
Career Record: 126-119 (20 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Warren Ruggiero
Defensive Coordinator: Lyle Hemphill
Location: Winston-Salem, NC
Stadium: BB&T Field (31,500)

KEY DEMON DEACONS

SAM HARTMAN, QB He'll get the chance to take over again after his run as a true freshman starter in 2018 was cut short by a broken leg.

SAGE SURRATT, WR Named first-team All-ACC despite getting hurt in game nine; has 15 touchdown catches in 19 career games.

CARLOS BASHAM JR., DE First-team All-ACC selection was 15th in the country in sacks per game and 16th in tackles for a loss.

KEY LOSSES

JAMIE NEWMAN, QB He threw 35 TD passes in 16 starts before moving on to Georgia as a graduate transfer.

KENDALL HINTON, WR/KR Former QB made the most of a chance to start in the slot, finishing 15th in the country in catches per game.

JUSTIN STRNAD, LB After leading the Deacons in tackles in 2018, he was derailed by a torn biceps in game seven last season.

RISING STAR

Receiver **DONAVON GREENE**, the highest-rated recruit of the Dave Clawson era, kept his redshirt and still offered a glimpse of his talent. Greene played in the final four games, which included a seven-catch, 176-yard showing against Syracuse, as well as several spectacular catches.

On the back of four straight bowls, Dave Clawson has forged a reputation as one of the top program builders in the country. He has the Deacons winning with a consistency never seen in the program's history. That stability will be challenged, though, as Clawson loses his starting quarterback, his leading rusher and receiver, three starters along the line, his tight end, his best linebacker and his two starting cornerbacks. Oh, and depth has been the program's biggest issue over the last two seasons.

The Deacons have covered up defensive issues with record-setting offensive numbers the last three seasons, and they've survived losing star players. This year, Clawson will have to unexpectedly replace Jamie Newman, the multi-tool quarterback who salvaged WFU's 2018 season and had Wake Forest at 7–1 last year before injuries set in. Newman moved to Georgia as a graduate transfer. Still, optimism abounds as Clawson has recruited well, and plenty of intriguing players return. "We're younger; I didn't say we're going to be worse," Clawson says about the offense.

OFFENSE Clawson has the luxury of turning to a former starter at quarterback in Sam Hartman. As a true freshman in 2018, Hartman was fourth in the ACC in total offense before breaking his leg in the ninth game. He'll have to be more accurate and protect the ball better, and the Deacons will have to rethink their approach as Hartman is not the running threat that Newman was.

Hartman will benefit from the return of Sage Surratt, who was on his way to an All-America season before suffering a season-ending shoulder injury in the ninth game. Surratt already had 11 touchdowns and was the only Power 5 player with more than 1,000 yards receiving at that point. On the other side, top recruit Donavon Greene shined in the final four games.

For the second straight year, the Deacons lose a 1,000-yard receiver out of the slot. Incumbent Jaquarii Roberson has only 13 career catches, so watch out for former four-star recruit Nolan Groulx. Wake also likes to work the middle with the tight end, but new starter Brandon Chapman has been a better blocker than pass catcher.

The rushing attack not only loses Newman but also battering ram Cade Carney. The Deacons have high hopes for Christian Beal-Smith, who was suspended for part of last season, but he has yet to show it on the field. Kenneth Walker III averaged 5.9 yards per carry as a true freshman but struggled to pass block.

The offensive line will be the big question mark. Each of the past two seasons, returning linemen combined for more than 100 career starts. This year, the returning linemen have 28 career starts. The Deacons hope to get a big boost from grad transfer Terrance Davis, who had 31 starts for Maryland. Davis, a former four-star recruit, has battled injuries but has been dominant when healthy.

DEFENSE Wake Forest hasn't been good on defense since 2016, but the Deacons improved slightly last year with a better pass rush and by creating more turnovers.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	at Old Dominion
Sept.	11	Appalachian State
Sept.	19	Villanova
Sept.	26	vs. Notre Dame #
Oct.	3	at Duke
Oct.	9	Miami
Oct.	17	at Florida State
Oct.	31	at NC State
Nov.	7	Syracuse
Nov.	14	at Louisville
Nov.	21	Clemson
Nov.	28	Boston College

#Charlotte, NC

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5, 4-4 ACC

Aug.	31	Utah State	W	38-35
Sept.	7	at Rice	W	41-21
Sept.	13	North Carolina	W	24-18
Sept.	21	Elon	W	49-7
Sept.	28	at Boston College	W	27-24
Oct.	12	Louisville	L	59-62
Oct.	19	Florida State	W	22-20
Nov.	2	NC State	W	44-10
Nov.	9	at Virginia Tech	L	17-36
Nov.	16	at Clemson	L	3-52
Nov.	23	Duke	W	39-27
Nov.	30	at Syracuse (ot)	L	30-39
Dec.	27	vs. Michigan State #	L	21-27

#Pinstripe Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	ACC	NATIONAL
Scoring	31.8 ppg	5	42
Rushing	175.7 ypg	6	50
Passing	288.3 ypg	2	24
Total	464.0 ypg	3	15
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	29.1 ppg	8	76
Rushing	163.7 ypg	9	74
Passing	252.8 ypg	10	101
Total	416.5 ypg	9	84
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
+8	+0.62	3	19

2020 RECRUITS

1. Jasheen Davis, DE, Snellville, GA
2. Mitch Griffis, QB, Ashburn, VA
3. Luke Petitbon, C, Washington, DC
4. George Sell, OT, Chagrin Falls, OH
5. Kendron Wayman, DE, Ridgely, MD
6. Ahmani Marshall, RB, Kernersville, NC
7. Quinton Cooley, RB, Bailey, NC
8. Trey Boll, TE, Richmond, VA
9. Jahmal Banks, WR, Baltimore, MD
10. Gavin Holmes, CB, Metairie, LA
11. Malik Puryear, DE, High Point, NC
12. James Ash Jr., DT, Tampa, FL
13. Christian Forbes, OG, Trenton, NJ
14. J.J. Roberts, CB, Ona, WV
15. Michael Frogge, TE, Greensboro, NC
16. Caelen Carson, CB, Waldorf, MD
17. Zach Vaughan, OT, Milton, MA
18. Jackson Hensley, WR, Pikeville, KY
19. Ke'Shawn Williams, WR, Philadelphia, PA
20. Justice Ellison, WR, Oakton, VA
21. Jacob Zuhr, LS, Oviedo, FL
22. Cody Cater, QB, Charlotte, NC

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Bruce Chapman

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	29.5	72
Defense	28.1	35
Margin	**+1.4**	**49**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	41.2%	77
Defense	41.1%	60
Margin	**+0.1%**	**69**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.7	75
Defense	5.8	80
Margin	**-0.1**	**76**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.7	60
Defense	4.5	69
Margin	**+0.2**	**64**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	0.6	62
Actual	8	18
Margin	**+7.4**	**11**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

81.15

The Wake Forest offense ran 81.15 offensive plays per game in 2019, which was the most in the country. The Demon Deacons allowed just 20.45 seconds to elapse between plays, on average, which was quicker than all but 10 FBS teams.

41.28%

The Demon Deacons may have lost starting quarterback Jamie Newman to Georgia via the transfer portal, but Sam Hartman — who led the team in passing in 2018 as a true freshman — has accounted for 41.28 percent of Wake Forest's passing offense over the last two seasons.

37.0%

Wake Forest forced its opponents to go three-and-out 67 times across 181 possessions in 2019. At 37.0 percent, the Deacs' three-and-out percentage ranked fourth in the ACC and No. 22 overall.

Injuries wiped out key players in 2019, and this year's biggest challenge will be to replace two cornerbacks who started 82 games combined.

The defense should feed off the experienced line, led by NFL prospect Carlos Basham Jr., who was second in the ACC in sacks and TFLs last season. Five solid interior linemen are led by Sulaiman Kamara, and, on the outside, defensive end JaCorey Johns flashed potential in part-time action as a redshirt freshman.

The Deacons return two solid linebackers in Ryan Smenda Jr. and Ja'Cquez Williams, but depth is a question mark. The same could be said at safety, with Coby Davis and Nasir Greer primed to be standouts, but big questions behind them. Rover is the only deep position, with Luke Masterson returning from injury to battle Traveon Redd in the Deacons' 4-2-5 look.

Ja'Sir Taylor moves from being the third corner to the only experienced one. WFU will likely start sophomore Isaiah Essissima on the other side, but look for a rotation of several players. The Deacons will need to create pressure to support their inexperienced corners. Before his injury, Greer also showed the speed and instincts at safety to be able to cover up other issues in the defensive backfield.

SPECIALISTS The Deacons have never been good in the return game under Clawson, and last year their coverage units fell apart as well (122nd in kickoff defense and 129th in punt defense). That led to a coaching shakeup. Veteran punter Dom Maggio is gone, with redshirt freshman Ivan Mora taking over. The lone bright spot is kicker Nick Sciba, who set an NCAA record with 34 straight made field goals.

FINAL ANALYSIS Injuries snuffed out what could have been a special season last year, and Clawson will have to do some great work to keep the Deacons competitive. He loses a lot of talent on offense, and the schedule won't help. Wake Forest picks up Notre Dame as a non-conference game and gets much-improved Miami as the rotating Coastal opponent. In addition, the Deacons rely as much as any program on being able to coach up players who weren't highly recruited, so the missed workout time because of COVID-19 restrictions could really be impactful.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (3)

WR	24	Donavon Greene (Fr.)	8	Donald Stewart (Sr.)
WR	**14**	**Sage Surratt (Jr.)**	89	A.T. Perry (So.)
WR	82	Jaquarii Roberson (Jr.)	22	Nolan Groulx (Fr.)
LT	**50**	**Zach Tom (Jr.)**	76	Allan Rappleyea (Jr.)
LG	59	Loic Ngassam Nya (Jr.)	79	Sean Maginn (Jr.)
C	**79**	**Sean Maginn (Jr.)**	55	Michael Jurgens (So.)
RG	75	Terrance Davis (Sr.)	60	Taleni Suhren (Sr.)
RT	53	Je'Vionte' Nash (Sr.)	62	DeVonte Gordon (Fr.)
TE	23	Brandon Chapman (Sr.)	85	Blake Whiteheart (So.)
QB	10	Sam Hartman (So.)	15	Michael Kern (Fr.)
RB	26	Christian Beal-Smith (Jr.)	25	Kenneth Walker III (So.)

DEFENSE (9)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**9**	**Carlos Basham Jr. (Sr.)**	91	Mike Allen (Jr.)
DT	**72**	**Tyler Williams (Jr.)**	95	Dion Bergan Jr. (Jr.)
DT	**90**	**Sulaiman Kamara (Sr.)**	40	Rondell Bothroyd (So.)
DE	**41**	**JaCorey Johns (So.)**	15	Shamar McCollum (So.)
MLB	**45**	**Ryan Smenda Jr. (Jr.)**	46	DJ Taylor (Jr.)
OLB	**30**	**Ja'Cquez Williams (Sr.)**	58	Chase Monroe (Jr.)
CB	6	Ja'Sir Taylor (Sr.)	27	Tyriq Hardimon (Jr.)
CB	37	Isaiah Essissima (So.)	10	Kenneth Dicks III (So.)
ROV	12	Luke Masterson (Sr.)	**17**	**Traveon Redd (Sr.)**
SS	20	Coby Davis (Jr.)	28	Zion Keith (So.)
FS	**3**	**Nasir Greer (Jr.)**	**18**	**Trey Rucker (So.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	4	Nick Sciba (Jr.)	**KR**	25	Kenneth Walker III (So.)
P	96	Ivan Mora (Fr.)	**PR**	83	Taylor Morin (Fr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jamie Newman	361	220	2,868	26	11
Sam Hartman	**97**	**55**	**830**	**4**	**2**
Michael Kern	**9**	**7**	**50**	**1**	**0**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Cade Carney	158	620	3.9	5
Kenneth Walker III	**98**	**579**	**5.9**	**4**
Jamie Newman	180	574	3.2	6
Christian Beal-Smith	**71**	**304**	**4.3**	**2**
Sam Hartman	**27**	**89**	**3.3**	**1**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Kendall Hinton	73	1,001	13.7	4
Sage Surratt	**66**	**1,001**	**15.2**	**11**
Scotty Washington	35	607	17.3	7
Jack Freudenthal	32	325	10.2	5

KICKING: **Nick Sciba, 24-25 FGs, 119 pts.**
TACKLES: **Ryan Smenda Jr., 81; Ja'Cquez Williams, 73**
SACKS: **Carlos Basham Jr., 10.0**
INTERCEPTIONS: Amari Henderson, 4

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE DEMON DEACONS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP WAKE FOREST

"They're consistent, year in and out. (Dave) Clawson does a fantastic job putting those players through a process. They have a style, a method to how they develop their guys. Defensively, they're doing a solid job. It's still (former coordinator) Mike Elko's scheme more or less. They don't stress their secondary too much; they're able to show a lot of looks and play smart to cover their gaps in talent. ... They're really great with zone read. Sometimes it gets them in trouble because it develops slowly, and a smart, fast defense can jump on it. But if you aren't careful, they'll kill you because they draw it out and read it and read it until the last second. The receiver (Sage) Surratt was one of their best players; they were limited without him. Provided he's healthy, that could be big for them. He can do a lot of things in that offense. ... You question how often they smash up that quarterback. He's a skinny kid, about 220 maybe, and it's QB iso and reads a lot. They better have depth at the position to do that kind of stuff. The (Sam) Hartman kid could be really talented, but he's been hurt a lot. ... The margins are thin at Wake, but Dave has it down to a science. They're always a frustrating team to play because they won't quit, and they make you work for it."

DUKE Blue Devils

National Forecast: **66** · ACC Coastal Prediction: **6** · Projected Record: **5-7, 2-6**

Deon Jackson

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: David Cutcliffe
Record at School: 72-79 (12 years)
Career Record: 116-108 (18+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Zac Roper
Defensive Coordinators: Ben Albert, Matt Guerrieri
Location: Durham, NC
Stadium: Wallace Wade Stadium (40,004)

KEY BLUE DEVILS

VICTOR DIMUKEJE, DE His pass-rushing skills will generate double-teams to help free teammates on the blitz.

DEON JACKSON, RB Jackson took a small step back last season, but he'll be a major part of Duke's new-look offense.

MARK GILBERT, CB After a dislocated hip and resulting surgeries, the former All-American will be a bonus for a strong secondary.

KEY LOSSES

QUENTIN HARRIS, QB Started all 12 games, throwing for 2,078 yards with 19 TDs; his 510 rushing yards were second on the team.

KOBY QUANSAH, LB The undisputed emotional leader of the defense had 105 tackles that earned him third-team All-ACC honors.

DYLAN SINGLETON, S The All-ACC safety was invaluable in run support during his time at Duke, piling up 217 tackles over his career.

RISING STAR

Wide receiver **ELI PANCOL** saw limited opportunities as a freshman last season, but he made the most of his touches, going for 91 yards and three touchdowns on six catches and rushing for 20 yards and a touchdown on three carries. His role will grow as the offense opens up.

Despite ranking among the nation's worst offenses, Duke was one goal-line turnover vs. North Carolina away from bowl eligibility in 2019 — a bit of optimism to come from a frustrating season.

In the end, it was the bottom of a four-year trend for a once-efficient attack, leading to coach David Cutcliffe's decision to take over the offense and assume play-calling duties for the 2020 season.

With a solid group of returners and a graduate transfer quarterback under the command of one of the game's greatest offensive minds, the Blue Devils should be in line to return to a bowl game behind a defense that figures to become one of the best in the ACC.

OFFENSE When Duke first broke through under Cutcliffe, it did so with a balanced, unpredictable offense that consistently highlighted its strengths. Lately, the Blue Devils have gotten stale and conservative, often looking to hide their personnel challenges. That will change immediately under Cutcliffe, who will likely turn to Chase Brice, a transfer from Clemson, to run the show.

A former three-star recruit, Brice completed 60 percent of his attempts with nine touchdowns and four interceptions over two seasons. In 2018, Brice was thrust into duty to help the Tigers rally to a victory over Syracuse, helping preserve an undefeated season on the way to a national title.

He figures to have a full cache of weapons at his disposal, led by sophomore receiver Jalon Calhoun (46 rec., 420 yards, four TDs) and senior tight end Noah Gray (51 rec., 392 yards, three TDs).

Cutcliffe, who is known for his work with quarterbacks, won't have to lean exclusively on the passing game, as running back Deon Jackson (172 carries, 641 yards, six TDs) returns for his senior season, while junior Mataeo Durant looks to take another step after a breakout 2019 when he rushed for 461 yards on 97 carries.

Up front, Duke replaces guard Zach Baker with Maurice McIntyre, but aside from that, four starters return, led by redshirt senior Jack Wohlabaugh. Rakavius Chambers returns at right guard, as do youngsters Jacob Monk and Casey Holman at the tackles, along with senior backup Robert Kraeling.

The Blue Devils also picked up tackle Devery Hamilton, a grad transfer from Stanford, to give them one of their deepest offensive line groups in recent years.

DEFENSE The Duke defense did an admirable job in 2019, finishing 56th in total defense despite the offense's ranking of 89th in time of possession. Clearly, the Blue Devils have adjusted their philosophy to get after quarterbacks more, as their 35 sacks were a 10-year high for the program.

The two players most responsible for that rise, defensive ends Victor Dimukeje (8.5 sacks) and Chris Rumph II (6.5 sacks), are back, as is 285-pound tackle Derrick Tangelo, who accounted for 23 tackles up front.

The question along the line is whether anyone can step

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Middle Tennessee
Sept.	12	Elon
Sept.	17	Charlotte
Sept.	26	at Pittsburgh
Oct.	3	Wake Forest
Oct.	10	at NC State
Oct.	17	North Carolina
Oct.	31	at Notre Dame
Nov.	7	at Georgia Tech
Nov.	13	Virginia
Nov.	21	Virginia Tech
Nov.	28	at Miami

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 5-7, 3-5 ACC

Aug.	31	vs. Alabama #	L	3-42
Sept.	7	North Carolina A&T	W	45-13
Sept.	14	at Middle Tennessee	W	41-18
Sept.	27	at Virginia Tech	W	45-10
Oct.	5	Pittsburgh	L	30-33
Oct.	12	Georgia Tech	W	41-23
Oct.	19	at Virginia	L	14-48
Oct.	26	at North Carolina	L	17-20
Nov.	9	Notre Dame	L	7-38
Nov.	16	Syracuse	L	6-49
Nov.	23	at Wake Forest	L	27-39
Nov.	30	Miami	W	27-17

#Atlanta

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	ACC	NATIONAL
Scoring	25.3 ppg	11	94
Rushing	150.3 ypg	10	79
Passing	179.3 ypg	12	110
Total	329.7 ypg	13	114
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	29.2 ppg	9	77
Rushing	180.6 ypg	10	87
Passing	199.0 ypg	3	24
Total	379.6 ypg	7	56
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
-11	-0.92	13	123

2020 RECRUITS

1. Luca Diamont, QB, Los Angeles, CA
2. Graham Barton, OG, Brentwood, TN
3. Aeneas Peebles, DT, Knightdale, NC
4. Jontavis Robertson, WR, Gray, GA
5. Malik Bowen-Sims, WR, Mount Juliet, TN
6. Addison Penn, C, Southlake, TX
7. Michael Reese, DT, Antioch, TN
8. Dorian Mausi, LB, Detroit, MI
9. Nicky Dalmolin, WR, Cumming, GA
10. Jaylen Stinson, ATH, Opelika, AL
11. Christian Hood, LB, Missouri City, TX
12. Calib Perez, OT, Pearland, TX
13. Isaiah Fisher-Smith, S, Greensboro, NC
14. Gary Smith III, OG, Shelbyville, TN
15. Ryan Smith, LB, Kennesaw, GA
16. Da'Quan Johnson, ATH, Flomaton, AL
17. Cole Finney, TE, Hingham, MA

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Margaret Bowles

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	31.9	20
Defense	30.6	100
Margin	**+1.3**	**54**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	36.5%	118
Defense	37.3%	25
Margin	**-0.8%**	**77**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	4.5	125
Defense	5.3	42
Margin	**-0.8**	**108**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.6	67
Defense	4.4	54
Margin	**+0.2**	**62**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-6.3	112
Actual	-11	120
Margin	**-4.7**	**102**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

5.96%

Duke struggled to produce explosive plays in 2019. Assuming an "explosive" play is a rushing attempt that gains 10 yards or more, or a pass play of 30 or more yards, only 5.96 percent of the Blue Devils' offensive snaps were explosive. Only Akron (5.93 percent) was worse.

1.92

Few teams put the ball on the ground as much as Duke in 2019. The Blue Devils fumbled an average of 1.92 times per game last season, which was the most in the ACC and ranked No. 126 in the country.

18.5%

In part because of Duke's fumbling issues, the Blue Devils ranked among the worst teams in the country in terms of turnovers. Duke committed a turnover on 18.5 percent of its offensive possessions last season, which was the highest rate in the ACC.

up to help replace departed seniors Trevon McSwain (35 tackles, four sacks), Tre Hornbuckle (33 tackles, four sacks) and Edgard Cerenord (25 tackles, 1.5 sacks).

Young Tahj Rice (6'2", 320) and DeWayne Carter (6'3", 300) both have the size to step in and become space-eaters to free the talented ends like redshirt freshman Christian Rorie, who figures to see a bigger role this season.

At linebacker, the departure of leading tackler Koby Quansah creates a massive hole, while backup Xander Gagnon's decision to enter the transfer portal only compounds things. It'll be up to Shaka Heyward (68 tackles, 6.5 TFLs) and Brandon Hill (52 tackles, 4.5 TFLs) to lead the unit. Rocky Shelton has the most experience of the remaining linebackers, but it's possible that Gagnon could also return to Duke.

The loss of safety Dylan Singleton (89 tackles) is a big one, but Duke is equipped to handle it with everyone else in the secondary returning. The Blue Devils figure to get a boost at corner, where in addition to returning starters Josh Blackwell and Leonard Johnson, they'll have former All-ACC pick Mark Gilbert back from injury.

With that talent at corner, coordinator Matt Guerrieri can be confident in using his safeties to shore up a run defense that struggled in 2019.

SPECIALISTS The kicking game is a question mark after the loss of punter Austin Parker (45.7 yards/punt) and kicker AJ Reed, who hit 15 of his 18 field goal attempts and was a perfect 34-of-34 on extra-point attempts. Damond Philyaw-Johnson has game-changing potential as a kick returner, averaging 32.3 yards on 17 returns last season and taking two to the house vs. Wake Forest.

FINAL ANALYSIS The offense has to get better, right? Just a little improvement for the Blue Devil attack will go a long way, helping lighten the pressure on a defense that has been asked to carry too much of the load in recent seasons.

Barring complete disaster, Duke should start 3–0 and has a realistic chance to be bowl eligible before November with the possibility of hanging around the Coastal race into the final weeks.

If the Blue Devils aren't bowling in 2020, Cutcliffe will have to consider making more changes.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**5**	**Jalon Calhoun (So.)**	19	Jake Bobo (Jr.)
WR	3	Darrell Harding Jr. (So.)	14	Dennis Smith (So.)
WR	6	Eli Pancol (So.)	85	D. Philyaw-Johnson (Jr.)
LT	**78**	**Casey Holman (So.)**		Devery Hamilton (Sr.)
LG	71	Maurice McIntyre (So.)	74	Ron Carr (Fr.)
C	**50**	**Jack Wohlabaugh (Sr.)**	55	Will Taylor (Jr.)
RG	**67**	**Rakavius Chambers (Sr.)**	60	Patrick Leitten (Jr.)
RT	**63**	**Jacob Monk (So.)**	77	Robert Kraeling (Sr.)
TE	**87**	**Noah Gray (Sr.)**	88	Jake Marwede (Jr.)
QB		Chase Brice (Jr.)	12	Gunnar Holmberg (So.)
RB	**25**	**Deon Jackson (Sr.)**	21	Mataeo Durant (Jr.)

DEFENSE (6)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	96	Chris Rumph II (Jr.)	**86**	**Drew Jordan (Sr.)**
DT	54	Derrick Tangelo (Sr.)	90	DeWayne Carter (Fr.)
DT	53	Tahj Rice (Jr.)	93	Ben Frye (Jr.)
DE	**51**	**Victor Dimukeje (Sr.)**	94	R.J. Oben (Fr.)
LB	42	Shaka Heyward (Fr.)	34	Sayyid Stevens (Fr.)
LB	32	Brandon Hill (Sr.)	43	Rocky Shelton II (So.)
CB	**31**	**Josh Blackwell (Jr.)**	28	Mark Gilbert (Sr.)
CB	**33**	**Leonard Johnson (Jr.)**	39	Jeremiah Lewis (So.)
S	**10**	**Marquis Waters (Sr.)**	29	Nate Thompson (So.)
S	23	Lummie Young IV (Jr.)		J'Marick Woods (Jr.)
S	**26**	**Michael Carter II (Sr.)**	30	Jalen Alexander (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	44	Charlie Ham (Fr.)	**KR**	85	D. Philyaw-Johnson (Jr.)
P	37	Jackson Hubbard (Jr.)	**PR**	31	Josh Blackwell (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Quentin Harris	357	209	2,078	16	11
Chris Katrenick	**13**	**3**	**49**	**1**	**1**
Jalon Calhoun	**1**	**1**	**25**	**1**	**0**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Deon Jackson	**172**	**641**	**3.7**	**6**
Quentin Harris	160	510	3.2	7
Mataeo Durant	**97**	**461**	**4.8**	**1**
Brittain Brown	12	56	4.7	0
Chris Katrenick	**13**	**47**	**3.6**	**1**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Noah Gray	**51**	**392**	**7.7**	**3**
Jalon Calhoun	**46**	**420**	**9.1**	**4**
Aaron Young	29	367	12.7	3
Scott Bracey	21	270	12.9	2
Deon Jackson	**21**	**192**	**9.1**	**2**

KICKING: AJ Reed, 15-18 FGs, 79 pts.
TACKLES: Koby Quansah, 105; Dylan Singleton, 89
SACKS: **Victor Dimukeje, 8.5**
INTERCEPTIONS: 3 players tied with 2

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE BLUE DEVILS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP DUKE

"Coaches are starting to ask how much longer David Cutcliffe is going to be around there. This might be the last year, or the beginning of the end. He's earned the right to do it however he wants, but there are some signs they're slowing down. (Associate head coach Derek) Jones leaving for Texas Tech is a sign. He's like a son to David. Now Cut is taking over the play-calling too. ... Taking a transfer quarterback was really out of character. This is a head coach and an offensive staff that might be one of the best ever at grooming quarterbacks, and they're taking a transfer to start? Kind of strange from the outside. Don't get me wrong, (Chase) Brice is talented, he can command an offense. We saw that at Clemson. It's just out of character for a Cut QB not to be in the system for a while. And he won't have the weapons he had at Clemson. They need improvement at receiver. ... Offensively, it's Cut's offense. It's the same terminology he used at Tennessee, even some of the calls. You know what you're getting, and they're not overly complex, they just execute their stuff. The kid on defense, Chris Rumph, the coach's son, he's as good as anyone in the league at the end position. They do a great job with him. He could really be a star. Otherwise, they're not going to overwhelm you with talent."

GEORGIA TECH Yellow Jackets

National Forecast: **75** · ACC Coastal Prediction: **7** · Projected Record: **3-9, 2-6 ACC**

Jordan Mason

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Geoff Collins
Record at School: 3-9 (1 year)
Career Record: 18-19 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Dave Patenaude
Defensive Coordinators: Nathan Burton, Andrew Thacker
Location: Atlanta, GA
Stadium: Bobby Dodd Stadium (55,000)

KEY YELLOW JACKETS

JORDAN MASON, RB Mason should be even more effective than last season behind a better offensive line.

TRE SWILLING, CB The son of Pat Swilling has grown into one of the ACC's top cornerbacks.

ANTONNEOUS CLAYTON, DE Tech will count on Clayton to boost a pass rush that generated a paltry 1.4 sacks per game.

KEY LOSSES

BRENTAVIOUS GLANTON, DE Glanton provided a veteran presence last season for a young group.

TYLER DAVIS, TE On a team that struggled to complete passes, Davis was an effective safety valve, averaging 8.7 yards on 17 catches, ranking third on the team.

JERRY HOWARD JR., RB Though he didn't leave the program, he did flip from offense to defense after playing a significant role as a backup.

RISING STAR

Though running back **JAHMYR GIBBS** committed to Tech early, the Yellow Jackets had to hold on until February as powerhouses like LSU, Ohio State, Florida and Alabama pushed to flip him. The 5'11", 200-pounder is likely to find himself in the rotation early and could emerge as a star.

There were no illusions about the difficulties that faced Geoff Collins in transitioning the Georgia Tech program out of the triple-option era.

As competitive as the Yellow Jackets had been under Paul Johnson, it was always understood that shifting to a different system would expose Georgia Tech's roster as undersized and lacking in ACC talent. Predictably, as Collins went about instituting a more modern philosophy, the Yellow Jackets struggled badly at times to a 3–9 record.

Collins is a high-energy, culture-focused defensive coach who has significantly improved the program's recruiting infrastructure and local appeal. With so much talent in the state, the school's fans and administration wanted to build a program with a higher ceiling, even if it meant taking a few steps back as Collins overhauled the roster.

Though that project appears to be off to a good start, translating those returns to on-field results likely remains a couple of years away, meaning the school will embrace any signs of immediate improvement.

OFFENSE When Collins arrived, Tech's offensive line averaged 6'1", 264 pounds with a group of quarterbacks who were recruited to run the ball more than they threw. So the first step in turning around an offense that ranked 120th in yards per play (4.79) and went three-and-out on a fairly remarkable 40 percent of its drives last season (57-of-142) was getting more ACC-caliber pieces up front. The second was adding competition to a quarterback room with redshirt sophomore James Graham, who took over as the starter in early October.

It's possible that Graham, who completed just 45.1 percent of his passes for the season, will retain his job. The former four-star prospect has decent size at 6'1", 192 pounds and looks good throwing downfield. With better protection and understanding of the offense, Graham could flourish. When fall practice begins, the staff will also want to look at Jordan Yates and incoming freshman Jeff Sims, one of the top dual-threat prospects in the country.

The offensive line upgraded at guard and tackle with the addition a pair of grad transfers in 6'6" Ryan Johnson (Tennessee) and 6'7" Devin Cochran (Vanderbilt). If center Kenny Cooper comes back healthy off a hip injury, that could uncork a running game that was already somewhat effective with Jordan Mason and Jamious Griffin, who flashed yards-after-contact ability as a freshman.

There's also promise at receiver with the return of veteran Jalen Camp, who played only five games before season-ending surgery last year. Along with sophomore Ahmarean Brown and Miami transfer Marquez Ezzard, it's a nice mix on paper that could fit coordinator Dave Patenaude's desire to play faster and stretch the field.

DEFENSE Tech's versatile group of linebackers and defensive backs proved to be a good fit last season with coordinator Andrew Thacker's 4-2-5 scheme, which naturally provides opportunities for playmakers from the second level to make an impact. Given that nearly all of

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3	Clemson
Sept.	12	Gardner-Webb
Sept.	19	UCF
Sept.	26	at North Carolina
Oct.	3	at Virginia Tech
Oct.	17	Virginia
Oct.	24	at Pittsburgh
Oct.	31	at Syracuse
Nov.	7	Duke
Nov.	14	Notre Dame #
Nov.	21	Miami
Nov.	28	at Georgia

#Mercedes-Benz Stadium

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 3-9, 2-6 ACC

Aug.	30	at Clemson	L	14-52
Sept.	7	USF	W	14-10
Sept.	14	The Citadel (ot)	L	24-27
Sept.	28	at Temple	L	2-24
Oct.	5	North Carolina	L	22-38
Oct.	12	at Duke	L	23-41
Oct.	19	at Miami	W	28-21
Nov.	2	Pittsburgh	L	10-20
Nov.	9	at Virginia	L	28-33
Nov.	16	Virginia Tech	L	0-45
Nov.	21	NC State	W	28-26
Nov.	30	Georgia	L	7-52

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	ACC	NATIONAL
Scoring	16.7 ppg	14	124
Rushing	152.4 ypg	8	72
Passing	133.9 ypg	14	124
Total	286.3 ypg	14	127
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	32.4 ppg	13	104
Rushing	215.3 ypg	14	117
Passing	207.7 ypg	5	36
Total	422.9 ypg	10	89
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
-4	-0.33	11	93

2020 RECRUITS

1. Jahmyr Gibbs, RB, Dalton, GA
2. Jeff Sims, QB, Jacksonville, FL
3. Miles Brooks, CB, Jacksonville, FL
4. Jared Ivey, DE, Suwanee, GA
5. Nate McCollum, WR, Hampton, GA
6. Khatavian Franks, LB, Fairburn, GA
7. Ryan King, WR, Loganville, GA
8. Michael Rankins, OT, Ruskin, FL
9. Jordan Williams, OT, Gainesville, GA
10. Tyson Meiguez, LB, Fairburn, GA
11. Jalen Huff, CB, Buford, GA
12. Paula Vaipulu, C, Channelview, TX
13. Kyle Kennard, DE, Atlanta, GA
14. Khaya Wright, LB, Miami, FL
15. Akelo Stone, DE, Savannah, GA
16. Billy Ward, TE, Locust Grove, GA
17. Wing Green, OT, Leesburg, GA
18. Tucker Gleason, QB, Tampa, FL
19. Albany Casey, DE, Bay Minette, AL
20. Cade Kootsouradis, OT, Crestview, FL
21. Avery Boyd, WR, Tallahassee, FL
22. Emmanuel Johnson, DE, North Charleston, SC
23. Ryan Spiers, OG, Biloxi, MS

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Danny Karnik/GT Athletics

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	27.1	118
Defense	33.3	126
Margin	**-6.2**	**125**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	34.6%	125
Defense	42.5%	73
Margin	**-7.9%**	**116**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	4.8	120
Defense	5.8	85
Margin	**-1.0**	**116**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.0	112
Defense	4.3	44
Margin	**-0.3**	**90**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	2.0	48
Actual	-4	90
Margin	**-6.0**	**114**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

0.10

Georgia Tech averaged 0.10 points per drive on possessions in which the Yellow Jackets took over inside their own 20-yard line — the worst mark in the country in 2019.

60.71%

The Yellow Jackets scored 15 touchdowns and kicked two field goals in 28 trips into the red zone in 2019. At 60.71 percent, Tech's red zone scoring rate was the worst in the nation.

15.4%

Georgia Tech could not avoid sacks on passing downs in 2019. When facing a second-and-7 or longer, or third- or fourth-down-and-5 or longer, the Yellow Jackets suffered a sack 15.4 percent of the time, which was the highest rate in the ACC and 125th nationally.

those players return, the Yellow Jackets have a good foundation for improvement, particularly on the back end.

David Curry, a sixth-year senior who led the team with 97 tackles last season, provides the leadership for that linebacker group and is responsible for relaying a lot of the communication from the sidelines. But star safety Juanyeh Thomas is the player opposing offenses will try to avoid, as he has shown a knack in his two years as a starter for making the electric play.

Former linebacker Charlie Thomas, who had a team-high 9.5 tackles for a loss last year, will start the season at nickel. That should allow more snaps for Quez Jackson, who plays with the kind of "friction" Thacker appreciates. He'll also provide more support against the run, where the Yellow Jackets want to improve significantly on the 4.8 yards per carry they gave up last season.

Collins and Thacker will be thrilled to get former offensive lineman Jahaziel Lee back from a September leg injury and have defensive end Antonneous Clayton finally eligible after the NCAA ruled against him last season following a transfer from Florida. Those two should bolster the group up front, where T.K. Chimedza looked very promising as a freshman and Jordan Domineck showed some pass-rush ability off the edge.

SPECIALISTS Both of Tech's kickers left in the spring, though it would be hard to get much worse than the team's field goal performance last season, when they converted only 3-of-8 chances. That likely opens up the job for incoming freshman Jude Kelley, though it's possible the team could pursue another transfer or walk-on. Senior Pressley Harvin III has been a top-level punter in his three years, but the Yellow Jackets need to make big strides in coverage, as six of his punts were returned for 20 or more yards.

FINAL ANALYSIS Even if Tech makes incremental strides on offense, the Yellow Jackets will need to avoid getting buried by a schedule that includes Clemson, Georgia, Notre Dame and UCF in addition to its typical division foes. But ultimately, Collins is going to take the long-term view with this program and keep trying to build a roster that is deeper, more athletic and filled with ACC-level talent from top to bottom.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (10)

WR	10	**Ahmarean Brown (So.)**	11	Marquez Ezzard (So.)
WR	1	**Jalen Camp (Sr.)**	12	**Adonicas Sanders (Jr.)**
WR	15	**Malachi Carter (Jr.)**	26	Josh Blancato (Jr.)
LT	73	**Zach Quinney (Jr.)**		Jordan Williams (Fr.)
LG	78	**Jack DeFoor (Sr.)**	57	Mikey Minihan (Jr.)
C	55	**Kenny Cooper (Sr.)**	79	**William Lay III (Jr.)**
RG		Ryan Johnson (Sr.)	61	Michael Maye (So.)
RT		Devin Cochran (Sr.)	72	Charlie Clark (Jr.)
TE	83	Dylan Deveney (So.)	80	Dylan Leonard (So.)
QB	4	**James Graham (So.)**	13	Jordan Yates (Fr.)
RB	27	**Jordan Mason (Jr.)**	22	Jamious Griffin (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	11	Antonneous Clayton (Sr.)	15	Chico Bennett Jr. (So.)
DT	93	**T.K. Chimedza (So.)**	96	Chris Martin (Sr.)
DT	86	Djimon Brooks (Sr.)	95	Jahaziel Lee (Sr.)
DE	42	Jordan Domineck (So.)	32	Sylvain Yondjouen (So.)
LB	6	**David Curry (Sr.)**	17	Demetrius Knight II (So.)
LB	44	Quez Jackson (Jr.)	5	Jerry Howard Jr. (Sr.)
CB	3	**Tre Swilling (Jr.)**	16	Myles Sims (So.)
CB	21	**Zamari Walton (So.)**	24	Kenan Johnson (Fr.)
NB	25	**Charlie Thomas (Jr.)**	22	Kaleb Oliver (Jr.)
S	2	**Tariq Carpenter (Sr.)**	18	Derrik Allen (Fr.)
S	1	**Juanyeh Thomas (Jr.)**	14	Jaylon King (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Jude Kelley (Fr.)	KR	8	Tobias Oliver (Jr.)
P	27	Pressley Harvin III (Sr.)	PR	10	Ahmarean Brown (So.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
James Graham	193	87	1,164	12	7
Lucas Johnson	37	21	187	1	1
Tobias Oliver	26	11	177	0	2

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Jordan Mason	172	899	5.2	7
James Graham	99	290	2.9	3
Tobias Oliver	55	279	5.1	2
Jamious Griffin	37	125	3.4	0
Jerry Howard Jr.	23	102	4.4	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Ahmarean Brown	21	396	18.9	7
Adonicas Sanders	19	249	13.1	0
Tyler Davis	17	148	8.7	1
Malachi Carter	16	240	15.0	2
Tobias Oliver	11	160	9.6	1

KICKING: Brenton King, 3-7 FGs, 26 pts.
TACKLES: **David Curry, 97; Charlie Thomas, 65**
SACKS: **Ja'Quon Griffin, 2.5**
INTERCEPTIONS: **Kaleb Oliver, 2**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE YELLOW JACKETS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP GEORGIA TECH

"Geoff (Collins) has spent over a year managing the expectations in a very public way, which is divisive in the coaching community. On one hand, they're totally deficient at a lot of key positions, which is what you would expect from a team coming off the triple option. They don't have ACC-caliber receivers, their offensive line is a mess and they could only be very vanilla on offense. On the other hand, this was a successful program a few years ago. The defense has identifiable talent and some guys who would see time on other teams. ... They picked their QB and rode him good or bad, which is a smart move. They turned the ball over constantly, and they couldn't run. Fix those two things and they'll up their win total. ... Once they can get a little more consistent on offense, it allows them to get loose and fast on defense. Collins knows how to wreck you. You should see a jump this season in the front, they're going to play the run better, they're going to rush the quarterback better. ... Yeah, they're in Atlanta, but Tech has never had a modern identity. So far they haven't exploded in recruiting or anything. ... It's fair to expect them to get to .500, but they draw Clemson and Notre Dame, plus Georgia and UCF. They will likely end up a better team with the same record."

MIAMI Hurricanes

National Forecast: **29** · ACC Coastal Prediction: **3** · Projected Record: **9-3, 5-3**

Gregory Rousseau

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Manny Diaz
Record at School: 6-7 (1 year)
Career Record: 6-7 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Rhett Lashlee
Defensive Coordinators: Blake Baker, Ephraim Banda
Location: Coral Gables, FL
Stadium: Hard Rock Stadium (64,767)

KEY HURRICANES

BREVIN JORDAN, TE Finalist for the John Mackey Award after catching 35 passes for 495 yards and earning first-team All-ACC honors.

ZACH MCCLOUD, LB Redshirted in 2019 so he could return to anchor the Hurricanes' defense.

GREGORY ROUSSEAU, DE Logged 15.5 sacks as a redshirt freshman in 2019, second in the nation and tied for second most in a single season in Miami Hurricanes history.

KEY LOSSES

MICHAEL PINCKNEY, LB Started 47 games in his four-year career, logging 267 total tackles and 42 tackles for a loss.

SHAQUILLE QUARTERMAN, LB Started a Miami-record 52 straight games, earning All-ACC honors four times and logging 356 total tackles.

JEFF THOMAS, WR Dangerous deep threat also posted an average of 22.6 yards per kick return and 18.9 yards per punt return.

RISING STAR

ZION NELSON was the weak link on an awful offensive line in 2019, but the true freshman — an unheralded recruit — started every game at left tackle, and the experience will serve him well. The Hurricanes love his athletic potential, as his 6'5" frame and surprising speed give him NFL tools.

Manny Diaz spent the preseason ahead of his debut season as head coach of the Miami Hurricanes building up as much goodwill as possible. He picked out a supposed quarterbacks guru to be his offensive coordinator, landed a high-profile quarterback transfer and reloaded his defense with a slew of talented transfers.

In one season, all the goodwill the coach had built up disappeared. Miami went 6–7 and ended the year with a shutout loss to Louisiana Tech in the Independence Bowl. The Hurricanes parted ways with Dan Enos, the once-vaunted offensive coordinator, immediately after a disastrous offensive season.

It was the start of an offseason of rebuilding goodwill for the Hurricanes. Diaz picked out another supposed quarterbacks guru to be his offensive coordinator, this time with a spread philosophy. He landed another high-profile quarterback, but this time there's an all-conference track record to come with name recognition. The coach even reloaded his defense by luring the top defensive player on the transfer market to Coral Gables. Year Two for Diaz is also Take Two.

OFFENSE The splashy additions of Enos and quarterback Tate Martell didn't work out last year. Miami's offense in 2019 was even worse than it had been in 2018.

Diaz's first attempt at building an offense from scratch — he fired the entire previous staff when he took over — didn't work out. Now he hopes the tweaks he's making for 2020 will get the Hurricanes on track.

It all starts with offensive coordinator Rhett Lashlee, who spent the last two seasons at SMU. Miami will pivot from a pro-style offense to a spread offense with Lashlee at the helm, and the change could invigorate the Hurricanes. Miami has recruited well for years, only to see talented wide receivers and running backs underachieve in college. The Hurricanes hope the spread system will let them get the most out of a talented roster.

The skill players, highlighted by star tight end Brevin Jordan and running back Cam'Ron Harris, will also be helped by the arrival of quarterback D'Eriq King, who transferred to Miami from the Houston Cougars in January. The dual-threat quarterback could be the best the Hurricanes have had in years.

None of it will matter if Miami can't fix its offensive line, though. The Hurricanes also parted ways with former offensive line coach Butch Barry after last season and replaced him with Garin Justice, who has more experience coaching offensive linemen in spread systems. Last year, Miami surrendered 51 sacks — the most among Power 5 teams — but its top six offensive linemen are all back.

DEFENSE Defense — in particular the defensive line — has been the Hurricanes' strength for years, and now Miami might have the single best pass-rush tandem in the country. Star defensive end Gregory Rousseau was one of the nation's breakout stars last season, piling up 15.5 sacks as a redshirt freshman. Nationally, only Ohio State superstar Chase Young had more.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Temple
Sept.	12	Wagner
Sept.	17	UAB
Sept.	26	at Michigan State
Oct.	3	Pittsburgh
Oct.	9	at Wake Forest
Oct.	24	North Carolina
Oct.	31	at Virginia
Nov.	7	Florida State
Nov.	14	at Virginia Tech
Nov.	21	at Georgia Tech
Nov.	28	Duke

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 6-7, 4-4 ACC

Aug.	24	vs. Florida #	L	20-24
Sept.	8	at North Carolina	L	25-28
Sept.	14	Bethune-Cookman	W	63-0
Sept.	21	Central Michigan	W	17-12
Oct.	5	Virginia Tech	L	35-42
Oct.	12	Virginia	W	17-9
Oct.	19	Georgia Tech (ot)	L	21-28
Oct.	26	at Pittsburgh	W	16-12
Nov.	2	at Florida State	W	27-10
Nov.	9	Louisville	W	52-27
Nov.	23	at FIU	L	24-30
Nov.	30	at Duke	L	17-27
Dec.	26	vs. Louisiana Tech %	L	0-14

#Orlando, FL %Independence Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	ACC	NATIONAL
Scoring	25.7 ppg	10	90
Rushing	118.1 ypg	14	120
Passing	249.2 ypg	7	52
Total	367.2 ypg	12	98
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	20.2 ppg	2	23
Rushing	114.6 ypg	2	17
Passing	195.2 ypg	2	18
Total	309.8 ypg	2	13
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
+3	+0.23	6	46

2020 RECRUITS

1. Avantae Williams, S, Deland, FL
2. Chantz Williams, DE, Orange Park, FL
3. Jaylan Knighton, RB, Deerfield Beach, FL
4. Donald Chaney Jr., RB, Miami, FL
5. Jalen Rivers, OT, Orange Park, FL
6. Michael Redding III, WR, Pensacola, FL
7. Tyler Van Dyke, QB, Suffield, CT
8. Jalen Harrell, S, Hialeah, FL
9. Isaiah Dunson, CB, Tucker, GA
10. Elijah Roberts, DE, Miami, FL
11. Keshawn Washington, S, Homestead, FL
12. Dominic Mammarelli, TE, Naples, FL
13. Willie Moise, DT, Hollywood, FL
14. Dazalin Worsham, WR, Trussville, AL
15. Tirek Austin-Cave, LB, Camden, NJ
16. Xavier Restrepo, ATH, Deerfield Beach, FL
17. Quentin Williams, DE, Charlotte, NC
18. Marcus Clarke, CB, Winter Park, FL
19. Keyshawn Smith, WR, San Diego, CA
20. Brian Balom, S, Hollywood, FL
21. Corey Flagg Jr., LB, Houston, TX
22. Chris Washington, OT, Nashville, TN

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Tom DiPace

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	32.6	9
Defense	29.0	61
Margin	**+3.6**	**24**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	38.8%	100
Defense	34.0%	3
Margin	**+4.8%**	**38**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.7	79
Defense	4.7	12
Margin	**+1.0**	**23**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.1	101
Defense	3.9	21
Margin	**+0.2**	**56**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-6.7	117
Actual	3	43
Margin	**+9.7**	**6**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

3.92

Miami surrendered nearly four sacks per game in 2019. The Hurricanes ranked No. 127 in FBS. Only ACC rival Syracuse (4.17) was worse among Power 5 units.

8.5

Gregory Rousseau ranked second nationally with 15.5 sacks in 2019. According to Sports Info Solutions, Rousseau recorded 8.5 sacks in third-down situations as a redshirt freshman — most in the ACC. Only 14 returning players across the country posted as many as 8.5 sacks overall last year.

72.22%

Miami scored 29 TDs and converted 10 field-goal attempts in 54 red zone trips last season, a 72.22 percent scoring rate that ranked No. 13 in the ACC, No. 122 in the country and worst among teams with more than 40 trips inside their opponents' 20-yard line.

The same day King transferred to the Hurricanes, so did Quincy Roche, who had just finished up his own All-America season for the Temple Owls. Among all players returning to college football this season, Roche's 13 sacks in 2019 were third behind only Rousseau and Oregon State linebacker Hamilcar Rashed Jr.

The rest of the defense is filled with more question marks than in past years, though. Miami is replacing a starting linebacker, its starting striker and its top defensive back.

At linebacker, the Canes must replace 99 combined starts with a group of mostly unproven linebackers. Linebacker Zach McCloud, a returning starter, will man one of the two positions, but it's open competition for the second job, and the candidates are almost entirely untested.

SPECIALISTS In 2018, Miami's punter situation was a mess, but it got fixed in 2019 with the addition of Lou Hedley, a junior college transfer from the City College of San Francisco. In 2019, the Hurricanes' kicker situation was a mess, and they hope another transfer will get it fixed in 2020.

Jose Borregales tormented Miami in one of the biggest upsets of the season last year. The kicker made three field goals, including one from 50 yards and another from 53, to help the FIU Panthers stun the Hurricanes at Marlins Park. After an extra point late in the game, the specialist even taunted Miami with a throat-slashing gesture.

Borregales, however, grew up a die-hard Hurricanes fan and attended nearby Booker T. Washington. He entered the transfer portal after last season and quickly found a match with the Hurricanes. While he had an up-and-down career at FIU, Borregales will automatically be an upgrade for Miami, which had four misses inside 30 yards and two missed extra points last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS Diaz's tenure so far has been defined by preseason and offseason optimism, and 2020 will at least keep this intact. On paper, Miami filled some of its most glaring holes with a strong recruiting class, active participation in the transfer portal and aggressive coaching changes, but the 2019 offseason was similar. Optimism this season will be more tempered, and maybe that's a good thing for the Hurricanes.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)

WR	8	Dee Wiggins (Jr.)	12	Jeremiah Payton (Fr.)
WR	6	Mark Pope (Jr.)	83	Michael Redding III (Fr.)
WR	3	Mike Harley (Sr.)	84	Dazalin Worsham (Fr.)
LT	74	John Campbell Jr. (So.)	75	Zalon'tae Hillery (Jr.)
LG	**55**	**Navaughn Donaldson (Sr.)**	64	Jalen Rivers (Fr.)
C	**65**	**Corey Gaynor (Jr.)**	**53**	**Jakai Clark (So.)**
RG	**51**	**DJ Scaife Jr. (Jr.)**	52	Cleveland Reed Jr. (So.)
RT	**60**	**Zion Nelson (So.)**	57	Kai-Leon Herbert (Jr.)
TE	**9**	**Brevin Jordan (Jr.)**	**85**	**Will Mallory (Jr.)**
QB	1	D'Eriq King (Sr.)	5	N'Kosi Perry (Jr.)
RB	23	Cam'Ron Harris (Jr.)	22	Robert Burns (Jr.)

DEFENSE (5)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**15**	**Gregory Rousseau (So.)**	95	Jaelan Phillips (Jr.)
DT	**96**	**Jonathan Ford (Sr.)**	98	Jalar Holley (Fr.)
DT	1	Nesta Jade Silvera (Jr.)	91	Jordan Miller (So.)
DE	2	Quincy Roche (Sr.)	12	Jahfari Harvey (Fr.)
LB	**53**	**Zach McCloud (Sr.)**	52	Patrick Joyner Jr. (So.)
LB	6	Sam Brooks Jr. (So.)	17	Waynmon Steed (Jr.)
STRK	3	Gilbert Frierson (So.)	4	Keontra Smith (So.)
CB	8	DJ Ivey (Jr.)	23	Te'Cory Couch (So.)
CB	**7**	**Al Blades Jr. (Jr.)**	24	Christian Williams (So.)
S	**26**	**Gurvan Hall Jr. (Jr.)**		Avantae Williams (Fr.)
S	21	Bubba Bolden (Jr.)	5	Amari Carter (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	30	Jose Borregales (Sr.)	**KR**	2	Donald Chaney Jr. (Fr.)
P	94	Lou Hedley (Jr.)	**PR**	4	Jaylan Knighton (Fr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jarren Williams	276	169	2,187	19	7
N'Kosi Perry	**159**	**85**	**1,045**	**8**	**3**
Tate Martell	**1**	**1**	**7**	**0**	**0**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
DeeJay Dallas	115	693	6.0	8
Cam'Ron Davis	**114**	**576**	**5.1**	**5**
Robert Burns	**29**	**116**	**4.0**	**0**
N'Kosi Perry	**38**	**44**	**1.2**	**2**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
K.J. Osborn	50	547	10.9	5
Mike Harley	**38**	**485**	**12.8**	**3**
Brevin Jordan	**35**	**495**	**14.1**	**2**
Jeff Thomas	31	379	12.2	3
Dee Wiggins	**20**	**335**	**16.8**	**4**

KICKING: Bubba Baxa, 5-10 FGs, 30 pts.
TACKLES: Shaquille Quarterman, 107; **Gurvan Hall Jr., 66**
SACKS: **Gregory Rousseau, 15.5**
INTERCEPTIONS: **DJ Ivey, 3**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE HURRICANES

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP MIAMI

"They really looked embarrassing at times last season. Losing to that Georgia Tech team is inexcusable. ... They're still super talented on defense because they're still Miami. I think Manny (Diaz) got caught trying to be too smart a few times. Like, with those athletes, why are you overthinking this thing? Just go play man coverage! Go let them loose. ... They looked so bad in the bowl game on offense. They gave up and didn't care at all. You saw it on the tape. That's a case of them not being as good as they think they are. The offensive line was embarrassing against Florida, and then they got worse because they didn't scheme to help themselves. By the time they got to conference play, you kept thinking they'd change things up to bail out the line. They didn't. ... (D'Eriq) King is a freak show player, but he can't be the sole threat. If Rhett (Lashlee) runs what he has at his previous places, they're gonna get him killed without some help. They could be all over the portal again this summer. ... This program needs to get serious about itself. They're out in recruiting talking about the swag and the smoke like it wasn't 30 years ago. ... I think you're going to find out really fast if this regime is going to work out. They could end up a mess just like Florida State last season."

NORTH CAROLINA Tar Heels

National Forecast: **18** · ACC Coastal Prediction: **1** · Projected Record: **9-4, 6-2 ACC**

Sam Howell

Mack Brown's return to Chapel Hill was a smashing success — even though it included six heartbreaking losses. The Tar Heels played in their first bowl game since 2016 and closed the season with blowout victories over NC State (41–10 on the road) and Temple (55–13 in the Military Bowl). More importantly, Brown injected energy into a program that needed it. UNC sold out its season ticket allotment before the season and finished with a top-20 recruiting class after it. And Brown is just getting started. The Tar Heels return 10 starters on offense, including record-setting quarterback Sam Howell, and have an improving defense with talent and experience in the back seven.

UNC went 3–6 last season in games decided by seven points or fewer, losing those six contests by a combined 26 points. With small improvements, the Tar Heels can dream big.

"Our goals are different," Brown says. "Last year, we were trying to beat somebody. Last year, we were trying to finish games. Last year, we were trying to get to a bowl game. This year, we want to win the league."

OFFENSE UNC's Air Raid attack returns most of its significant contributors after ranking second in the ACC in total yards (474.0 per game). Howell, the reigning ACC Rookie of the Year, is the headliner after throwing a school-record 38 touchdown passes and finishing second in the league in passing yards and passing efficiency. He should be more of a threat as a runner this season now that UNC has some depth behind him.

Speaking of running, the Tar Heels have a dynamic 1-2 punch in tailbacks Michael Carter and Javonte Williams. They combined for 1,936 rushing yards last season (1,003 for Carter), and both could push for 1,000 yards in 2020. Carter is shifty with a school-record career average of 6.0 yards per carry, while Williams is a punishing runner who rarely is tackled by the first defender.

UNC's receivers are equally dangerous, led by the twosome of Dazz Newsome and Dyami Brown. Both players posted at least 1,000 receiving yards and 10 touchdown catches last season, and Brown led the league with 20.3 yards per reception. Beau Corrales provides a big, physical target on the outside, and Garrett Walston returns after seizing the starting job at tight end.

Up front, UNC has continuity in the group paving the way for its skilled stars. The team must replace Charlie Heck at left tackle, but the rest of the offensive line returns intact. Joshua Ezeudu figures to start at either left guard or tackle, with Asim Richards (tackle) or Ed Montilus (eight starts last season at guard) filling the spot not occupied by Ezeudu.

DEFENSE Chazz Surratt was a revelation in 2019, transitioning from quarterback into a first-team All-ACC linebacker who wreaked havoc all over the field. He returns for his senior year to lead a position group that includes Jeremiah Gemmel, who started all 13 games and finished second on the team (behind Surratt) in tackles.

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Mack Brown
Record at School: 76-52-1 (11 years)
Career Record: 251-128-1 (31 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Phil Longo
Defensive Coordinators: Jay Bateman, Tommy Thigpen
Location: Chapel Hill, NC
Stadium: Kenan Memorial Stadium (50,500)

KEY TAR HEELS

SAM HOWELL, QB Threw a school-record 38 TD passes and finished second in the ACC (to Trevor Lawrence) in passing yards (3,641) and passing efficiency (160.3).

DAZZ NEWSOME, WR Earned second-team All-ACC honors with a team-high 72 receptions for 1,018 yards and 10 touchdowns.

CHAZZ SURRATT, LB Converted QB led the team with 115 tackles and 15 tackles for a loss.

KEY LOSSES

CHARLIE HECK, LT Started for three years and led the team with 43 knockdown blocks in 2019.

JASON STROWBRIDGE, DT Earned third-team All-ACC honors, making a career-high 45 tackles, tying for the conference lead with three fumble recoveries and blocking two kicks.

MYLES DORN, S Finished third on the team with 83 tackles, led the team with six pass breakups and had two interceptions.

RISING STAR

UNC has plenty of talent at receiver, but the 5'10", 165-pound **JOSH DOWNS** has the speed and quickness to make an immediate impact. He is the son of former NC State and NFL running back Gary Downs and has drawn comparisons to former West Virginia star Tavon Austin.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	at UCF
Sept.	12	vs. Auburn #
Sept.	19	James Madison
Sept.	26	Georgia Tech
Oct.	3	at Virginia
Oct.	10	Virginia Tech
Oct.	17	at Duke
Oct.	24	at Miami
Nov.	7	Connecticut
Nov.	14	Pittsburgh
Nov.	21	at Boston College
Nov.	27	NC State

#Atlanta

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 7-6, 4-4 ACC

Aug.	31	vs. South Carolina #	W	24-20
Sept.	8	Miami	W	28-25
Sept.	13	at Wake Forest	L	18-24
Sept.	21	Appalachian State	L	31-34
Sept.	28	Clemson	L	20-21
Oct.	5	at Georgia Tech	W	38-22
Oct.	19	at Virginia Tech (ot)	L	41-43
Oct.	26	Duke	W	20-17
Nov.	2	Virginia	L	31-38
Nov.	14	at Pittsburgh (ot)	L	27-34
Nov.	23	Mercer	W	56-7
Nov.	30	at NC State	W	41-10
Dec.	27	vs. Temple %	W	55-13

#Charlotte, NC %Military Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	ACC	NATIONAL
Scoring	33.1 ppg	2	30
Rushing	188.2 ypg	4	38
Passing	285.8 ypg	3	25
Total	474.0 ypg	2	12
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	23.7 ppg	4	44
Rushing	143.5 ypg	7	51
Passing	229.6 ypg	7	71
Total	373.2 ypg	6	49
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
+8	+0.62	3	19

2020 RECRUITS

1. Desmond Evans, DE, Sanford, NC
2. Josh Downs, WR, Suwanee, GA
3. Myles Murphy, DE, Greensboro, NC
4. Ja'Qurious Conley, S, Jacksonville, NC
5. Kedrick Bingley-Jones, DT, Charlotte, NC
6. Cameron Roseman-Sinclair, S, Charlotte, NC
7. Jacolby Criswell, QB, Morrilton, AR
8. Clyde Pinder Jr., DT, Seffner, FL
9. Ray Rose, WR, Belmont, NC
10. John Copenhaver, TE, Roswell, GA
11. Cayden Baker, OT, Fort Myers, FL
12. Ethan West, LB, Midlothian, VA
13. Trey Zimmerman, OT, Roswell, GA
14. Cedric Gray, ATH, Charlotte, NC
15. Kendall Karr, TE, Cramerton, NC
16. Tylee Craft, WR, Sumter, SC
17. Jonathan Adorno, OG, Rolesville, NC
18. Elijah Green, RB, Roswell, GA
19. D.J. Jones, RB, Fayetteville, NC
20. Jefferson Boaz, TE, Pilot Mountain, NC
21. A.J. Beatty, DE, Pittsburgh, PA
22. Stephen Gosnell, WR, Pilot Mountain, NC
23. Kaimon Rucker, DE, Hartwell, GA
24. Malik McGowan, OG, Charlotte, NC
25. Jayden Chalmers, CB, Sanford, NC

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Streeter Lecka/Getty Images

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	29.0	83
Defense	29.9	82
Margin	**-0.9**	**85**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	44.1%	43
Defense	40.4%	52
Margin	**+3.7%**	**49**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.4	19
Defense	5.4	50
Margin	**+1.0**	**22**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.8	40
Defense	4.1	31
Margin	**+0.7**	**28**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	2.6	44
Actual	8	18
Margin	**+5.4**	**22**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

7.1%

A big reason for North Carolina's bounce-back performance in 2019 was its low turnover rate. The Tar Heels turned the ball over on just 7.1 percent of their offensive possessions last season, which was the lowest rate in the ACC and ranked No. 10 in FBS.

25.03%

In 959 offensive plays in 2019, North Carolina produced 240 plays of 10 yards or more, a rate of 25.03 percent that ranked second in the ACC and No. 10 in the country.

7.19%

Much of that success came through the air. Of North Carolina's 431 pass attempts in 2019, 31 resulted in gains of 30 yards or more, a rate of 7.19 percent that ranked second in the ACC and No. 15 nationally. The Tar Heels ranked No. 13 overall among FBS teams with at least 300 passing attempts.

Up front, the Tar Heels will try to generate the improved pass rush that Brown desires. They must replace stalwarts Aaron Crawford and Jason Strowbridge on the defensive line, where they have several underclassmen vying for playing time. Senior Tomon Fox (6.5 sacks last season) provides experience in his role as an edge rusher with some linebacker responsibilities. Tomari Fox and Jahlil Taylor are promising young returners as down linemen, and UNC welcomes a talented pass rusher in freshman Desmond Evans.

The Tar Heels struggled with injuries in the secondary last season, but they still tied for second in the ACC with 14 interceptions. This year, they are much deeper. Cornerback Patrice Rene, who returns after suffering a torn ACL in the second game last year, will be joined in the secondary by returning starters Trey Morrison, Storm Duck and D.J. Ford. Three other players who saw significant action a year ago are back, and transfer cornerbacks Bryce Watts and Kyler McMichael, who both sat out in 2019, also are in the mix. "It's going to be really competitive back there," Brown says.

SPECIALISTS Special teams are a huge emphasis after UNC returned no kicks for touchdowns and ranked 11th in the league in net punting a year ago. To that end, Brown hired former Nebraska assistant Jovan Dewitt as his new special teams coordinator. UNC has dangerous kick returners in Carter (kickoffs) and Newsome (punts), and the team welcomes graduate transfer Grayson Atkins at kicker. Atkins was an FCS All-American last year, making 13-of-15 field-goal attempts for Furman.

FINAL ANALYSIS It's no coincidence that all seven Coastal teams have won the division in the last seven years. The only safe prediction has been chaos, but it's possible UNC is ready to emerge as a consistent winner. The Tar Heels have tough nonconference games at UCF and vs. Auburn to kick off the season, but their league schedule is favorable with interdivision games at Boston College and at home vs. NC State. If they can successfully navigate a difficult October that features a home game against Virginia Tech and trips to Virginia, Duke and Miami, they should contend for their first Coastal crown since 2015.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (10)				
WR	**2**	**Dyami Brown (Jr.)**	14	Emery Simmons (So.)
WR	**5**	**Dazz Newsome (Sr.)**	4	Rontavius Groves (Sr.)
WR	**15**	**Beau Corrales (Sr.)**	3	Antoine Green (Jr.)
LT	72	Asim Richards (So.)	75	Joshua Ezeudu (So.)
LG	75	Joshua Ezeudu (So.)	**63**	**Ed Montilus (So.)**
C	**68**	**Brian Anderson (Jr.)**	55	Ty Murray (Fr.)
RG	**73**	**Marcus McKethan (Jr.)**	76	William Barnes (So.)
RT	**74**	**Jordan Tucker (Jr.)**	71	Triston Miller (Fr.)
TE	**84**	**Garrett Walston (Sr.)**	88	Kamari Morales (Fr.)
QB	**7**	**Sam Howell (So.)**	10	Jace Ruder (So.)
RB	**8**	**Michael Carter (Sr.)**	25	Javonte Williams (Jr.)
DEFENSE (7)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	56	Tomari Fox (So.)	93	Kristian Varner (Fr.)
NT	52	Jahlil Taylor (So.)	90	Xach Gill (Jr.)
DT	51	Raymond Vohasek (Jr.)	98	Kevin Hester Jr. (Fr.)
OLB	**12**	**Tomon Fox (Sr.)**	42	Tyrone Hopper (Sr.)
MLB	**21**	**Chazz Surratt (Sr.)**	24	Eugene Asante (So.)
MLB	**44**	**Jeremiah Gemmel (Jr.)**	8	Khadry Jackson (So.)
CB	**29**	**Storm Duck (So.)**	28	Kyler McMichael (So.)
CB	**5**	**Patrice Rene (Sr.)**	2	Bryce Watts (Jr.)
NB	**4**	**Trey Morrison (Jr.)**	15	DeAndre Hollins (So.)
SS	11	Myles Wolfolk (Sr.)	13	Don Chapman (So.)
FS	**16**	**D.J. Ford (Sr.)**	9	Cam'Ron Kelly (So.)
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K		Grayson Atkins (Sr.)	**KR**	8 Michael Carter (Sr.)
P	91	Ben Kiernan (So.)	**PR**	5 Dazz Newsome (Sr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Sam Howell	422	259	3,641	38	7
Vincent Amendola	4	3	48	0	0
Dyami Brown	1	1	18	0	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Michael Carter	177	1,003	5.7	3
Javonte Williams	166	933	5.6	5
Antonio Williams	48	322	6.7	3
Josh Henderson	18	127	7.1	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Dazz Newsome	72	1,018	14.1	10
Dyami Brown	51	1,034	20.3	12
Beau Corrales	40	575	14.4	6
Rontavius Groves	27	250	9.3	1
Michael Carter	21	154	7.3	2

KICKING: Noah Ruggles, 19-27 FGs, 102 pts
TACKLES: **Chazz Surratt, 115; Jeremiah Gemmel, 84**
SACKS: **Chazz Surratt, Tomon Fox, 6.5**
INTERCEPTIONS: **Myles Wolfolk, 3**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE TAR HEELS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP NORTH CAROLINA

"It seems like the Mack Brown project is working so far. They're recruiting exceptionally well and drawing more interest than the program has seen in a long time. ... Mack is the CEO. He's not Nick Saban, but he's not an idiot either. He's letting the coordinators run their systems, that's evident, but he knows a lot more than he gets credit for. Where you're really seeing his impact is in the personnel. Look at what he did with Chazz Surratt. You've got a backup quarterback at best who might end up being an NFL linebacker. ... They're going to be better on defense; they have some real talent in the backfield now with the transfers. They'll be young but bigger and faster. They're more talented defensively than people think, they just changed systems and coordinators so often that there was no consistency. ... The offensive line needs improvement over last year, but they looked better. Otherwise the offense might be the second best in the entire league behind Clemson. ... Sam Howell is only going to get better, and almost everyone around him is back. ... They're in line to make a run in the near future if they land the caliber of recruits they're chasing now. This is the program that's changed their identity in recruiting the most in our league. Outside of the Florida schools, this is a team built to chase Clemson."

PITTSBURGH Panthers

National Forecast: **39** · ACC Coastal Prediction: **4** · Projected Record: **7-5, 4-4 ACC**

Kenny Pickett

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Pat Narduzzi
Record at School: 36-29 (5 years)
Career Record: 36-29 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mark Whipple
Defensive Coordinator: Randy Bates
Location: Pittsburgh, PA
Stadium: Heinz Field (68,400)

KEY PANTHERS

KENNY PICKETT, QB Pickett threw for the fourth-most yardage in program history (3,098) and exceeded 300 passing yards in five games.

PARIS FORD, S Ford, who eschewed the NFL Draft, led the team with 97 tackles and three interceptions and was second with 11 PBUs.

JAYLEN TWYMAN, DE Second-team All-American led the team with 10.5 sacks and ranked 16th nationally at 0.81 sacks per game.

KEY LOSSES

MAURICE FFRENCH, WR Eclipsed Larry Fitzgerald's single-season Pitt receptions record with 96, averaging an FBS-best 8.7 catches per game.

SALEEM BRIGHTWELL, LB A team leader, Brightwell ranked third on the Panthers with 62 tackles, to go with 3.5 TFLs and 1.5 sacks.

NOLAN ULIZIO, RT A graduate transfer from Michigan, Ulizio offered leadership to an offensive line that included four first-year starters.

RISING STAR

The New York Gatorade Player of the Year, **ISRAEL ABANIKANDA** could provide an immediate boost to a running game that ranked 119th nationally. Rated the top overall prospect in New York by 247Sports, he ran for 1,350 yards with 25 touchdowns as a senior.

Pat Narduzzi's name swirled around the rumor mill after his former boss at Michigan State, Mark Dantonio, retired in February. It was widely believed that, if offered, Narduzzi would return to the school where he served as defensive coordinator for eight seasons. For some Pittsburgh faithful, this was a concern, given that Narduzzi has produced a 36–29 record and four bowl appearances since arriving in 2015.

For others, this might have served as a timely change, given that Narduzzi is 25–26 versus Power 5 conference teams and owns just one bowl victory. His 2019 team went 8–5, 4–4 in the ACC Coastal Division.

Narduzzi's response? "I'm here at Pitt. I want to be here at Pitt. That's where I'm going to be."

And so he is. Narduzzi will lead a Pittsburgh program that enters 2020 with a top-rated defense, a veteran quarterback and more optimism than at any time in his tenure.

"I want to win championships here," Narduzzi says. "That's our goal."

OFFENSE In Pittsburgh's 34–30 Quick Lane Bowl victory over Eastern Michigan, quarterback Kenny Pickett's performance — 27-of-39 for 361 yards with three touchdowns — gave hope that he and second-year coordinator Mark Whipple could put an ineffective 2019 in the past. While Pickett completed 62 percent of his passes for 3,098 yards, he threw only 13 touchdown passes.

A year after the Panthers produced two 1,000-yard rushers, Pittsburgh's top runner was rising senior A.J. Davis with 530 yards. The question is: Who can turn the running game around? Maybe Davis. Or, perhaps, freshman Israel Abanikanda, the New York Gatorade Player of the Year. There is also sophomore Vincent Davis (314 yards, 5.1 per carry) and junior Todd Sibley Jr. (249, 5.0).

At wideout, the loss of Maurice Ffrench (96 receptions, 850 yards) could be assuaged by acrobatic senior Taysir Mack, who had big games versus Penn State (12 catches for 125 yards) and Delaware (5 for 124) en route to averaging nearly 12 yards on 63 catches. He'll be joined by Shocky Jacques-Louis (23 receptions) and sophomore Jared Wayne (18) in the starting lineup.

At tight end, Pittsburgh hopes to get a jolt from graduate transfer Lucas Krull, a 6'6", 260-pounder who had nine catches for 108 yards in two seasons at Florida.

First-team All-ACC center Jimmy Morrissey and senior left guard Bryce Hargrove, a third-team All-ACC pick, anchor a line that looks to improve on both pass protection (64 quarterback hurries) and run blocking. Carter Warren (13 starts) and Jake Kradel (seven) are back at left tackle and right guard, respectively. Look for juniors Gabe Houy and Carson Van Lynn and converted tight end Grant Carrigan to compete at right tackle.

DEFENSE Eight starters return from a unit that ranked first nationally in sacks (3.92 per game), ninth in tackles for a loss (7.9), 11th in pass efficiency rating (112.93), 12th in rushing yards allowed (108.5) and 15th in total yards allowed (312.9) last season.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Miami (Ohio)
Sept.	12	at Marshall
Sept.	19	Richmond
Sept.	26	Duke
Oct.	3	at Miami
Oct.	17	Notre Dame
Oct.	24	Georgia Tech
Oct.	31	at Florida State
Nov.	6	Virginia Tech
Nov.	14	at North Carolina
Nov.	21	at Virginia
Nov.	28	Syracuse

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5, 4-4 ACC

Aug.	31	Virginia	L	14-30
Sept.	7	Ohio	W	20-10
Sept.	14	at Penn State	L	10-17
Sept.	21	UCF	W	35-34
Sept.	28	Delaware	W	17-14
Oct.	5	at Duke	W	33-30
Oct.	18	at Syracuse	W	27-20
Oct.	26	Miami	L	12-16
Nov.	2	at Georgia Tech	W	20-10
Nov.	14	North Carolina (ot)	W	34-27
Nov.	23	at Virginia Tech	L	0-28
Nov.	30	Boston College	L	19-26
Dec.	26	vs. Eastern Michigan #	W	34-30

#Quick Lane Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	ACC	NATIONAL
Scoring	21.2 ppg	13	114
Rushing	118.8 ypg	13	119
Passing	261.7 ypg	6	39
Total	380.5 ypg	10	87
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	22.5 ppg	3	36
Rushing	108.5 ypg	1	12
Passing	204.5 ypg	4	34
Total	312.9 ypg	3	15
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
-8	-0.62	12	112

2020 RECRUITS

1. Jordan Addison, ATH, Frederick, MD
2. Dayon Hayes, DE, Pittsburgh, PA
3. Israel Abanikanda, RB, Brooklyn, NY
4. Rashad Battle, CB, Fairburn, GA
5. Jaylon Barden, WR, Macon, GA
6. Branson Taylor, OT, Elyria, OH
7. Jahvante Royal, S, Fort Lauderdale, FL
8. Bangally Kamara, LB, Akron, OH
9. Aydin Henningham, WR, Deerfield Beach, FL
10. Michael Statham, OT, Baltimore, MD
11. Solomon DeShields, LB, Millville, NJ
12. Buddy Mack, S, Duncan, SC
13. AJ Roberts, LB, Staten Island, NY
14. Emmanuel Belgrave, DE, Miami, FL
15. Samuel Williams, DE, Fort Lauderdale, FL
16. Hunter Sellers, CB, Atlanta, GA
17. Daniel Moraga, TE, Ventura, CA
18. Ben Sauls, K, Tipp City, OH

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247SportsComposite

Bruce Schwartzman

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	28.1	101
Defense	30.0	83
Margin	**-1.9**	**100**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	39.4%	96
Defense	34.5%	6
Margin	**+4.9%**	**36**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.2	106
Defense	4.5	4
Margin	**+0.7**	**36**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	3.6	124
Defense	4.0	22
Margin	**-0.4**	**92**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-1.2	78
Actual	-8	110
Margin	**-6.8**	**117**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

+18.14

With new offensive coordinator Mark Whipple calling the plays, the Panthers increased their passing percentage from 35.63 percent of play calls in 2018 to 53.77 percent last season, a jump of 18.14 percentage points.

21.33%

No ACC defense was better at creating havoc than Pitt in 2019. The Panthers recorded either a tackle for loss, pass defended (interception or breakup), or forced fumble on 21.33 percent of snaps last season, the third best havoc rate in the country.

15.6%

Few teams were more successful getting to the QB than Pitt. The Panthers recorded a 15.6 percent sack rate on passing downs (second down and eight yards or more and third- and fourth-and-five or longer) last season, which led the ACC and ranked third overall.

The line, led by All-ACC picks Patrick Jones II and Jaylen Twyman, sets the tempo. Twyman's 10.5 sacks ranked 16th nationally at 0.81 per game. He tied for the team lead with 12 TFLs with Jones, who himself forced four fumbles (fifth in the NCAA) and had 18 quarterback hurries, 8.5 sacks and 43 tackles.

The synergy between that duo and the tandem of projected 2019 starters Rashad Weaver and Keyshon Camp (both of whom missed the season with injuries) could be seismic. Weaver, a long and athletic end, led Pittsburgh with 6.5 sacks and 14 TFLs in '18. Camp had 2.5 TFLs and two sacks two seasons ago. Deslin Alexandre (5.5 sacks, 10.5 TFLs) was a productive starter in Weaver's absence.

The linebacking corps of senior Chase Pine (middle), junior Cam Bright (outside) and senior Phil Campbell III (outside) is promising, yet relatively inexperienced. Campbell, a converted safety, had 56 tackles, 8.0 TFLs and two forced fumbles in nine starts. Bright ranked third on the team with 62 tackles, including nine TFLs, and Pine had 19 tackles as a reserve. "If (Pine) stays consistent," Narduzzi says, "he can be a freaking big-time NFL middle linebacker."

The safety duo of Paris Ford and Damar Hamlin rivals any in the ACC. "I would say it probably is the best tandem in the country right now," Narduzzi says. Ford, a devastating hitter, led Pittsburgh with 97 tackles and three interceptions and added 11 PBUs, while Hamlin finished with 84 tackles, 10 PBUs and a pick. Each considered turning pro. That duo joins corners Damarri Mathis and Jason Pinnock in a defense with the potential to rank among the nation's best.

SPECIALISTS Four-year starter Alex Kessman has a career field-goal rate of 68.7 percent (46-of-67). Three-year starter Kirk Christodoulou averaged 42.9 yards per punt last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS Ten wins or bust? Doesn't seem far-fetched for an eight-win team that returns 15 starters. Three years ago, athletic director Heather Lyke showed faith in Narduzzi after a 5–7 season by extending his contract to 2024. Now, the sixth-year coach can reward his AD by coaxing greatness out of the most talented team of his tenure.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**11**	**Taysir Mack (Sr.)**	6	Tre Tipton (Sr.)
WR	18	Shocky Jacques-Louis (Jr.)	3	Jordan Addison (Fr.)
WR	82	Jared Wayne (So.)	88	D. Butler-Jenkins (Jr.)
LT	**77**	**Carter Warren (Jr.)**	76	Matt Goncalves (Fr.)
LG	**71**	**Bryce Hargrove (Sr.)**	50	Jason Collier (Fr.)
C	**67**	**Jimmy Morrissey (Sr.)**	60	Owen Drexel (Jr.)
RG	53	Jake Kradel (So.)	68	Blake Zubovic (So.)
RT	**57**	**Gabe Houy (Jr.)**	59	Carson Van Lynn (Jr.)
TE	7	Lucas Krull (Sr.)	28	Kyi Wright (Fr.)
QB	**8**	**Kenny Pickett (Sr.)**	12	Nick Patti (So.)
RB	**21**	**A.J. Davis (Sr.)**	2	Israel Abanikanda (Fr.)

DEFENSE (8)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**91**	**Patrick Jones II (Sr.)**	87	Habakkuk Baldonado (So.)
DT	**97**	**Jaylen Twyman (Jr.)**	92	Tyler Bentley (So.)
DT	10	Keyshon Camp (Sr.)	95	Devin Danielson (So.)
DE	**17**	**Rashad Weaver (Sr.)**	**5**	**Deslin Alexandre (Jr.)**
OLB	**24**	**Phil Campbell III (Sr.)**	32	SirVocea Dennis (So.)
MLB	36	Chase Pine (Sr.)	20	Wendell Davis (So.)
OLB	38	Cam Bright (Jr.)	23	Leslie Smith (Fr.)
CB	**21**	**Damarri Mathis (Sr.)**	25	A.J. Woods (So.)
CB	15	Jason Pinnock (Sr.)	14	Marquis Williams (So.)
SS	**12**	**Paris Ford (Jr.)**	8	John Petrishen (Sr.)
FS	**3**	**Damar Hamlin (Sr.)**	31	Erick Hallett (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	97	Alex Kessman (Sr.)	**KR**	18	Shocky Jacques-Louis (Jr.)
P	98	Kirk Christodoulou (Jr.)	**PR**	83	John Vardzel (So.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Kenny Pickett	**469**	**289**	**3,098**	**13**	**9**
Nick Patti	**43**	**26**	**301**	**3**	**1**
Aaron Mathews	1	1	3	1	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
A.J. Davis	**127**	**530**	**4.2**	**4**
Vincent Davis	**61**	**314**	**5.1**	**2**
Todd Sibley Jr.	**50**	**249**	**5.0**	**0**
V'Lique Carter	65	242	3.7	0
Kenny Pickett	**95**	**110**	**1.2**	**2**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Maurice Ffrench	96	850	8.9	4
Taysir Mack	**63**	**736**	**11.7**	**3**
Shocky Jacques-Louis	**23**	**348**	**15.1**	**2**
A.J. Davis	**23**	**269**	**11.7**	**0**
Nakia Griffin-Stewart	19	185	9.73	1

KICKING: **Alex Kessman, 22-31 FGs, 95 pts.**
TACKLES: **Paris Ford, 97**; **Damar Hamlin, 84**
SACKS: **Jaylen Twyman, 10.5**
INTERCEPTIONS: **Paris Ford, 3**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE PANTHERS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP PITTSBURGH

"You know what you're getting here. This is the team that looks basic on film and then you get into a fight before the game, a fight during the game and they try to fight you after. That's all Pat (Narduzzi). He is that team. That personality is how they carry themselves. They're gonna hold you, press man coverage, get personal fouls, goad you into it, all of it. Pat is a great defensive mind, but he needs to learn that the team reflects the head coach. They ride too hot and cold; they swing too much because that's how he's acting on the sideline. ... They're not as good running the ball as they think they are. They're going to have to get better and more creative there, even in the new offense. It has to work when they hit you with that change-up after the passes. ... (Mark) Whipple is a really good schematics guy; they just didn't have what they needed last season. Schematically they give you problems no one else in this conference does. ... Their upside is that front seven. They're gonna disrupt you. They can get after it, they can confuse your protections and they can fight through you. ... They really could be a nine- or 10-win team this season if the offensive line gets better and they fix the scoring problems. The pieces are there. (Kenny) Pickett is a solid game manager but could maybe develop into something more."

VIRGINIA Cavaliers

National Forecast: **44** · ACC Coastal Prediction: **5** · Projected Record: **7-5, 4-4 ACC**

Charles Snowden

A year after winning its first-ever ACC Coastal Division title, ending its 15-game losing streak against rival Virginia Tech and making its first appearance in the Orange Bowl, Virginia could be hard-pressed to continue the "unbroken growth" that coach Bronco Mendenhall has touted since taking over before the 2016 season. Then again, each year Mendenhall and his staff have been able to help the program take another step forward despite seemingly daunting personnel losses.

The biggest challenge this year will be to revamp an offense that was electric behind star quarterback Bryce Perkins and find a spark like the one explosive kick returner Joe Reed brought to the team. But Mendenhall's 3-4 defense is loaded with talent and experience, yet again, especially at the linebacker position.

Virginia never even took the field for spring practice before concerns over the spread of COVID-19 essentially shut down sports in the spring. The Cavaliers will have plenty of work to get done in the fall if they're going to be ready for a challenging season-opener.

OFFENSE Perkins led Virginia to a 17–10 record in his two seasons at the helm, passing for 6,218 yards and 47 touchdowns while running for another 1,692 yards and 20 scores. And Perkins isn't the only departure, as two of his top three targets were seniors. Sophomore Brennan Armstrong, an effective but less explosive runner, will take over behind center, with grad transfer Keytaon Thompson also in the picture. With Armstrong, the staff envisions running an offense similar to what it used with Taysom Hill back at BYU. Terrell Jana, who came on in the second half of last season, figures to be the Cavaliers' top pass catcher, with young prospects Dontayvion Wicks, Tavares Kelly Jr., Billy Kemp IV, Ugo Obasi and Dorien Goddard also likely contributors.

In a welcome reversal, the offensive line may finally be a strength for the team for the first time in Mendenhall's tenure. Virginia returns seven players who started games on the line last season and adds Penn State graduate transfer Alex Gellerstedt, who sat out 2019 with a knee injury.

The Cavaliers also return their top running back from last season in Wayne Taulapapa, while Mike Hollins, who played as a true freshman, figures to take on an added role in his sophomore season.

DEFENSE Virginia's defense loses three key starters, two of whom missed considerable time in 2019, allowing younger players to gain valuable experience. In all, the Cavaliers return 15 players who started at least one game on that side of the ball. The strength of the unit figures to be the linebacking corps. Outside linebackers Charles Snowden and Noah Taylor have the potential to be a disruptive duo coming off the edge. Zane Zandier led UVA in tackles last season from his inside linebacker position, and Nick Jackson, who played as a true freshman, has the tools to be a star in the making.

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Bronco Mendenhall
Record at School: 25-27 (4 years)
Career Record: 124-70 (15 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Robert Anae
Defensive Coordinators: Nick Howell, Kelly Poppinga
Location: Charlottesville, VA
Stadium: Scott Stadium (61,500)

KEY CAVALIERS

CHARLES SNOWDEN, LB The 6'7" senior was a Division I basketball prospect, and he's used his size and athleticism to become an impact player off the edge.

JOEY BLOUNT, S The son of a former Virginia safety, Blount has intercepted five passes over the past two seasons.

TERRELL JANA, WR Registered 49 of his 74 catches over the second half of the season.

KEY LOSSES

BRYCE PERKINS, QB The engine that made UVA's offense go, Perkins transformed the Cavaliers from effective to explosive.

JOE REED, WR/KR Reed led UVA with 77 catches and seven TD receptions. He also had a school-record five kickoff return TDs in his career.

JORDAN MACK, LB Injuries slowed Mack during his senior season, but he still led Virginia with 7.5 sacks and 10 quarterback hurries.

RISING STAR

Injuries to linebacker Jordan Mack last season gave UVA fans a glimpse of **NICK JACKSON**'s potential. The 6'1", 225-pound Atlanta native had already caught coaches' attention in his fall camp before the season. He had nine tackles in the ACC title game against Clemson.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	7	vs. Georgia #
Sept.	12	VMI
Sept.	19	Connecticut
Sept.	26	at Clemson
Oct.	3	North Carolina
Oct.	17	at Georgia Tech
Oct.	24	at Old Dominion
Oct.	31	Miami
Nov.	7	Louisville
Nov.	13	at Duke
Nov.	21	Pittsburgh
Nov.	28	at Virginia Tech

#Atlanta

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 9-5, 6-2 ACC

Aug.	31	at Pittsburgh	W	30-14
Sept.	7	William & Mary	W	52-17
Sept.	14	Florida State	W	31-24
Sept.	21	Old Dominion	W	28-17
Sept.	28	at Notre Dame	L	20-35
Oct.	12	at Miami	L	9-17
Oct.	19	Duke	W	48-14
Oct.	26	at Louisville	L	21-28
Nov.	2	at North Carolina	W	38-31
Nov.	9	Georgia Tech	W	33-28
Nov.	23	Liberty	W	55-27
Nov.	29	Virginia Tech	W	39-30
Dec.	7	vs. Clemson #	L	17-62
Dec.	30	vs. Florida %	L	28-36

#Charlotte, NC %Orange Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	ACC	NATIONAL
Scoring	32.1 ppg	4	40
Rushing	121.2 ypg	12	117
Passing	267.7 ypg	4	33
Total	388.9 ypg	8	81
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	27.1 ppg	6	62
Rushing	138.1 ypg	4	40
Passing	233.7 ypg	8	78
Total	371.9 ypg	5	48
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
-3	-0.21	8	85

2020 RECRUITS

1. Andrew Gentry, OT, Littleton, CO
2. Jonathan Horton, DE, Baton Rouge, LA
3. Brandon Williams, LB, New Orleans, LA
4. Elijah Gaines, S, Alexandria, VA
5. Donovan Johnson, S, Harvey, LA
6. Jahmeer Carter, DT, Severn, MD
7. Su Agunloye, DE, Lindenhurst, NY
8. Lavel Davis, WR, Dorchester, SC
9. Joshua Rawlings, TE, Pittsburgh, PA
10. Jestus Johnson III, C, Washington, DC
11. Sam Brady, LB, Lincolnton, NC
12. Dave Herard, CB, Fort Lauderdale, FL
13. Nusi Malani, DE, San Mateo, CA
14. Lorenz Terry, DE, Richmond, VA
15. Ira Armstead, ATH, South Bend, IN
16. Demick Starling, WR, Nashville, TN

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Walter G. Arce Sr.

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	34.3	1
Defense	27.4	25
Margin	**+6.9**	**4**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	43.8%	47
Defense	39.4%	42
Margin	**+4.4%**	**42**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.7	78
Defense	5.7	77
Margin	**0.0**	**79**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.4	75
Defense	4.6	82
Margin	**-0.2**	**80**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-5.5	104
Actual	-3	85
Margin	**+2.5**	**43**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

10.11%

Only eight FBS defenses recorded a sack on more than 10 percent of pass opportunities in 2019. Virginia, which got to the quarterback 46 times last season, ranked third in the ACC and 10th overall with a 10.11 percent sack rate.

0.29

Virginia ranked as the nation's worst team in terms of forcing fumbles in 2019. The Cavaliers managed just 0.29 forced fumbles per game in 2019, Diving deeper, Virginia forced a fumble on just 0.8 percent of its opponents' rushing attempts, which was also the lowest rate in the country.

39.88%

The Cavaliers reached the red zone 69 times in 173 offensive possessions in 2019, a rate of 39.88 percent that led the ACC and ranked seventh in the country.

That position accounted for most of the team's 46 sacks, a total that ranked tied for ninth in the nation.

The secondary will potentially be solid again as well. The unit had to adjust to the in-season injury to All-America cornerback Bryce Hall. The players who filled in, including Heskin Smith and Jaylon Baker, now have experience going into 2020. Senior Joey Blount is a budding star at safety, where he'll likely line up alongside either the versatile De'Vante Cross — who played all over the field in 2019 — or Brenton Nelson, the 2017 ACC Defensive Rookie of the Year.

If there's a question mark it's the depth of the defensive front. Eli Hanback, who was a rock for four seasons, is gone, but Richard Burney announced plans to return for a sixth year of eligibility after applying for a medical hardship waiver. Additionally, Jowon Briggs impressed as a true freshman, while Mandy Alonso and Aaron Faumui could be poised for breakout years.

SPECIALISTS Reed is gone, and suddenly one of Virginia's biggest threats — its explosive kick return game — is more of a question mark. Losing spring practice and the opportunity to work out potential replacements was a setback for the unit.

Mike Hollins, Kemp and Kelly could all be options. The Cavaliers don't have to worry about replacing their kicker or punter, as both Brian Delaney and Nash Griffin return.

FINAL ANALYSIS Beating Virginia Tech, contending for Coastal Division titles, and winning bowl games have become the expectation for the once-scuffling program that has seen its win total grow from two to six to eight to nine in four years under Mendenhall.

The coach and his players believe that the team's culture of accountability had it uniquely positioned to handle the challenges of losing spring ball to the COVID-19 crisis. It won't take long to find out, as the Cavs have September games against national title contenders Georgia (at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta) and Clemson.

Landing another New Year's Six bowl bid may be tough, but a fourth straight bowl game, something Virginia last did from 2002-05, is well within reach.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**13**	**Terrell Jana (Sr.)**	84	Dorien Goddard (Fr.)
WR	87	Dontayvion Wicks (So.)	86	Ugo Obasi (So.)
WR	88	Tavares Kelly Jr. (Jr.)	80	Billy Kemp IV (Jr.)
LT	**70**	**Bobby Haskins (Jr.)**		Alex Gellerstedt (Sr.)
LG	**54**	**Ryan Nelson (Jr.)**	52	Joe Bissinger (So.)
C	**55**	**Olusegun Oluwatimi (Jr.)**	63	Tyler Fannin (Jr.)
RG	**69**	**Chris Glaser (Sr.)**		Gerrik Vollmer (Jr.)
RT	**79**	**Dillon Reinkensmeyer (Sr.)**	72	Ryan Swoboda (Jr.)
TE	85	Grant Misch (So.)		T.J. Kitts (Jr.)
QB	10	Brennan Armstrong (So.)		Keytaon Thompson (Sr.)
RB	**21**	**Wayne Taulapapa (Jr.)**	20	Mike Hollins (So.)

DEFENSE (9)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**91**	**Mandy Alonso (Sr.)**	95	Ben Smiley III (Fr.)
NT	**99**	**Jowon Briggs (So.)**	76	Jordan Redmond (So.)
DE	94	Aaron Faumui (Jr.)	9	Samson Reed (So.)
OLB	**11**	**Charles Snowden (Sr.)**	56	Matt Gahm (Sr.)
MLB	**33**	**Zane Zandier (Sr.)**	22	Rob Snyder (Sr.)
MLB	42	Nick Jackson (So.)	78	Josh Ahern (Fr.)
OLB	**14**	**Noah Taylor (Jr.)**	17	Elliott Brown (Sr.)
CB	23	Heskin Smith (Jr.)	39	Jaylon Baker (So.)
CB	**1**	**Nick Grant (Sr.)**	32	Darrius Bratton (Jr.)
SS	**28**	**Brenton Nelson (Sr.)**	**15**	**De'Vante Cross (Sr.)**
FS	**29**	**Joey Blount (Sr.)**	92	Tenyeh Dixon (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	26	Brian Delaney (Sr.)	**KR**	20	Mike Hollins (So.)
P	81	Nash Griffin (Sr.)	**PR**	80	Billy Kemp IV (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Bryce Perkins	495	319	3,530	22	12
Brennan Armstrong	**20**	**15**	**196**	**1**	**2**
Lindell Stone	**2**	**1**	**12**	**0**	**1**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Bryce Perkins	227	769	3.4	11
Wayne Taulapapa	**116**	**473**	**4.1**	**12**
PK Kier	32	174	5.4	1
Mike Hollins	**21**	**112**	**5.3**	**3**
Lamont Atkins	15	73	4.9	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Joe Reed	77	679	8.8	7
Hasise Dubois	75	1,062	14.2	6
Terrell Jana	**74**	**886**	**12.0**	**3**
Billy Kemp IV	**35**	**289**	**8.3**	**1**
Tanner Cowley	28	311	11.1	1

KICKING: **Brian Delaney, 20-24 FGs, 110 pts.**
TACKLES: **Zane Zandier, 108; Joey Blount, 95**
SACKS: Jordan Mack, 7.5
INTERCEPTIONS: **Joey Blount, 3**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE CAVALIERS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP VIRGINIA

"There's a lot of questions about how Bronco (Mendenhall) can keep that momentum going from beating Virginia Tech and going to the Orange Bowl. Looking back, I'm not sure they have that kind of year if the quarterback is anyone other than Bryce Perkins. He was such a force for them. He was their entire offense in a lot of key situations. ... So now Perkins is gone, plus their two best receivers, plus some linemen. I wouldn't be shocked if you saw transfers come in and play immediately. ... Defensively they've done a really good job these last few years. They're not going to be able to replace (cornerback) Bryce Hall this year. He was a standout, a big part of their leadership. They were noticeably different after he went down in the Miami game. ... They're recruiting OK. They're also recruiting nationally, maybe a little bit from Bronco's BYU days. They might have a better idea on how to do that nationally and not get lost trying to find your type of guys. You see them out across the country, treating UVA a little bit like Stanford or Northwestern. ... The positive here is the coaching staff. They have earned a ton of respect across this league for how they've built that roster up. Bronco is also a tremendous football coach, schematically, in the details. They've got a fantastic culture; we never hear anything negative from that program."

VIRGINIA TECH Hokies

National Forecast: **24** · ACC Coastal Prediction: **2** · Projected Record: **8-4, 5-3 ACC**

Caleb Farley

It's Year Five for Justin Fuente at Virginia Tech and yet in a way, it feels like a new beginning. Long-time defensive coordinator Bud Foster, who stayed on during the transition from Frank Beamer, retired. Justin Hamilton, a Foster protégé, is his successor, but four other defensive coaches (Tracy Claeys, Bill Teerlinck, Darryl Tapp and Ryan Smith) are new hires. "As a program and staff-wise, I couldn't be more excited," Fuente says. "It's a little bit of rejuvenation."

There's a solid base coming back, though. The Hokies have 19 returning starters, including 10 on defense to help ease in Hamilton. Fuente has won 33 games at Tech in four seasons, second most in the ACC in that time to Clemson, yet he's still trying to earn the fan base's trust, especially after an offseason dalliance with Baylor. A strong season would go a long way in getting him over the hump with Hokies fans.

OFFENSE The Hokies found something offensively when Hendon Hooker took over as the starting quarterback in Week Five last year. Hooker's mobility opened up the ground game, and his ball security helped the Hokies go 6–2 and average 36.1 points in games he started. (Tech was 2–3 and averaged 22.6 points in games he didn't.) It's not his job yet — Oregon transfer Braxton Burmeister and redshirt sophomore Quincy Patterson will get the chance to challenge — but it's hard to see the Hokies go in any other direction.

Though it seems to be said every year, this might actually be the year the Hokies' ground game turns a corner. This is the deepest offensive line Tech's had in recent memory, with every starter back from last year and enough depth that every position outside of left tackle Christian Darrisaw's spot seems legitimately up for grabs.

They'll block for a retooled running back room that welcomes five new players, including transfer Khalil Herbert, who ran for 1,735 yards and 14 touchdowns in four years at Kansas, and junior college transfer Marco Lee, who at 225 pounds is the team's biggest back. With those two plus returners Jalen Holston and Keshawn King, the Hokies hope to finally get some consistent production on the ground, where they haven't averaged more than 4.4 yards per carry since 2010.

Tré Turner and Tayvion Robinson are dynamic receivers whom Tech will try to get the ball to in any way possible. The issue here is depth following a rash of transfers in the offseason, including red zone stud Damon Hazelton. If Rutgers transfer Raheem Blackshear gets immediate eligibility, he could thrive as a back or slot receiver. Dalton Keene is off to the NFL, but the tight end room is still stacked, with James Mitchell a star in the making and Nick Gallo expected to step up. The pieces are in place for this to be Fuente's best offense since his first year in Blacksburg in 2016.

DEFENSE How do you replace a legend? Virginia Tech will find out, with Foster absent from the Hokies sideline for the first time since 1986. Hamilton cut his

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Justin Fuente
Record at School: 33-20 (4 years)
Career Record: 59-43 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Brad Cornelsen
Defensive Coordinator: Justin Hamilton
Location: Blacksburg, VA
Stadium: Lane Stadium (65,632)

KEY HOKIES

TRÉ TURNER, WR Injuries limited him in 2019, though Big-Play Tre still led the team in both catches (34) and receiving yards (553).

RAYSHARD ASHBY, LB He owned the ACC Linebacker of the Week Award last year, winning it five times.

CALEB FARLEY, CB Farley turned into a lockdown corner in his second season at the position, leading the ACC in passes defended (16) and tying for second in interceptions (four).

KEY LOSSES

DAMON HAZELTON, WR His numbers dipped in 2019, though he was still a big red-zone target, with eight touchdowns.

DALTON KEENE, TE "Rambo" never put up huge receiving stats, though he did a little bit of everything and did it really well.

REGGIE FLOYD, S Floyd was never quite as good again as he was as a sophomore, but as a three-year starter, he'll be missed.

RISING STAR

BROCK HOFFMAN sat out as a transfer from Coastal Carolina last year, but he's finally unleashed and figures to grab a starting spot on the interior line. He's a consummate leader with a mean streak, just the kind of nasty presence the Hokies' O-line needs.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Liberty
Sept.	12	Penn State
Sept.	19	at Middle Tennessee
Sept.	26	North Alabama
Oct.	3	Georgia Tech
Oct.	10	at North Carolina
Oct.	22	Boston College
Oct.	31	at Louisville
Nov.	6	at Pittsburgh
Nov.	14	Miami
Nov.	21	at Duke
Nov.	28	Virginia

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5, 5-3 ACC

Aug.	31	at Boston College	L	28-35
Sept.	7	Old Dominion	W	31-17
Sept.	14	Furman	W	24-17
Sept.	27	Duke	L	10-45
Oct.	5	at Miami	W	42-35
Oct.	12	Rhode Island	W	34-17
Oct.	19	North Carolina (ot)	W	43-41
Nov.	2	at Notre Dame	L	20-21
Nov.	9	Wake Forest	W	36-17
Nov.	16	at Georgia Tech	W	45-0
Nov.	23	Pittsburgh	W	28-0
Nov.	29	at Virginia	L	30-39
Dec.	31	vs. Kentucky #	L	30-37

#Belk Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	ACC	NATIONAL
Scoring	30.8 ppg	6	49
Rushing	176.1 ypg	5	49
Passing	209.1 ypg	11	86
Total	385.2 ypg	9	86
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	24.7 ppg	5	46
Rushing	139.3 ypg	5	46
Passing	224.0 ypg	6	63
Total	363.3 ypg	4	42
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**ACC**	**NATIONAL**
-4	-0.31	10	90

2020 RECRUITS

1. Alec Bryant, DE, Pearland, TX
2. Robert Wooten, DE, Stafford, TX
3. Tyree Saunders, WR, Jacksonville, FL
4. Justin Beadles, DE, Tyrone, GA
5. Jalen Hampton, RB, Rockville, MD
6. Lakeem Rudolph, WR, Virginia Beach, VA
7. Derrell Bailey Jr., DE, Greenback, TN
8. Marco Lee, RB, Columbus, GA*
9. Parker Clements, OT, Lugoff, SC
10. Dallan Wright, WR, Saluda, SC
11. Keonta Jenkins, S, Jacksonville, FL
12. Jordan Brunson, RB, Alpharetta, GA
13. Dorian Strong, CB, Upper Marlboro, MD
14. Kaden Moore, OT, Bethlehem, PA
15. Wilfried Pene, TE, Oakdale, CT

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

AP Photo/Lynne Sladky

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	31.3	29
Defense	29.0	58
Margin	**+2.3**	**41**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	41.3%	76
Defense	36.0%	12
Margin	**+5.3%**	**35**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.7	77
Defense	5.3	38
Margin	**+0.4**	**53**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.7	52
Defense	4.4	55
Margin	**+0.3**	**49**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	1.4	53
Actual	-4	90
Margin	**-5.4**	**110**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

73.81%

Virginia Tech surrendered 23 touchdowns and eight field goals in 42 red zone-opportunities last season, a 73.81 percent scoring rate that led the ACC and ranked No. 13 in the country.

94.55%

The Hokies also excelled at turning their own red zone trips into points. Virginia Tech scored 37 touchdowns and kicked 15 field goals in 55 opportunities — a 94.55 percent scoring rate that led the ACC and ranked No. 6 in the country.

1.9

Virginia Tech threw for an average of 8.5 yards per attempt in 2019, and the Hokies surrendered 6.6 yards per pass. The net result of 1.9 yards per pass attempt was third best in the ACC and ranked No. 16 nationally.

teeth under Foster, first as a safety for Tech in 2005 and then as an assistant in recent years, though at 37 years old, this is his first FBS coordinating gig.

Hamilton is not inheriting an empty cupboard, though. The strength of the defense comes in the back seven. Rayshard Ashby is as solid as they come at Mike linebacker, with 225 tackles in two years as a starter. It's a loaded linebacker room, so much so that even though junior Dax Hollifield is the projected starter at backer, Tech's got two athletic, rangy players in Alan Tisdale and 6'6" Amare Barno who need to see the field too.

The secondary should be solid as long as it's healthy. Caleb Farley and Jermaine Waller were quietly one of the best cornerback duos in the ACC last year, combining for 29 passes defended and seven interceptions. Divine Deablo is a well-built free safety, and the time is now for one-time stud recruit Devon Hunter to seize the rover spot.

If there's a question mark, it's on the line, though the Hokies have three solid seniors in the mix and added Youngstown State grad transfer Justus Reed (12.5 sacks in 2019) to help what has been a listless pass rush. Tech hasn't had a defensive lineman finish with even five sacks the last two seasons.

With all but one starter back, this could be a more Hokies-like defense than Foster fielded in his final few years. Although Tech had its moments last year, with back-to-back shutouts of Georgia Tech and Pittsburgh, it also struggled to close things out, giving away fourth-quarter leads in losses to Notre Dame, Virginia and Kentucky.

SPECIALISTS Oscar Bradburn improved his punting average (46.5) by 3.9 yards last year, and after a rough overtime session against North Carolina, kicker Brian Johnson made his final 12 field goals. Robinson was a revelation on punt returns, averaging 14.2 yards on 13 returns. King (28.0 avg.) could be the answer on kick returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS After six- and eight-win seasons in 2018 and '19, Hokies fans expect more this year. Fuente has lost some cachet, especially in watching a 15-year winning streak against rival Virginia end last year. But with so much returning, a 10-win season — the historical standard at Tech — isn't out of the realm of possibility.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (9)

WR	**11**	**Tré Turner (Jr.)**	85	Jaden Payoute (Fr.)
WR	**83**	**Tayvion Robinson (So.)**	21	Raheem Blackshear (Jr.)
WR	80	Kaleb Smith (So.)	16	Darryle Simmons (So.)
LT	**77**	**Christian Darrisaw (Jr.)**	79	Tyrell Smith (Sr.)
LG	**54**	**Lecitus Smith (Jr.)**	52	Austin Cannon (Sr.)
C	76	Brock Hoffman (Jr.)	**61**	**Bryan Hudson (So.)**
RG	**74**	**Doug Nester (So.)**	71	T.J. Jackson (Sr.)
RT	69	Luke Tenuta (So.)	**60**	**Silas Dzansi (Jr.)**
TE	**82**	**James Mitchell (Jr.)**	86	Nick Gallo (So.)
QB	**2**	**Hendon Hooker (Jr.)**	3	Braxton Burmeister (Jr.)
RB	26	Khalil Herbert (Sr.)	35	Keshawn King (So.)

DEFENSE (10)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**45**	**TyJuan Garbutt (Jr.)**	41	Jaylen Griffin (Jr.)
DT	**36**	**DaShawn Crawford (Sr.)**	96	Norell Pollard (So.)
DT	**5**	**Jarrod Hewitt (Sr.)**	93	Mario Kendricks (So.)
DE		Justus Reed (Sr.)	**8**	**Emmanuel Belmar (Sr.)**
MLB	**23**	**Rayshard Ashby (Sr.)**	15	Keshon Artis (So.)
MLB	**4**	**Dax Hollifield (Jr.)**	34	Alan Tisdale (So.)
OLB	**22**	**Chamarri Conner (Jr.)**	31	Nasir Peoples (So.)
CB	**28**	**Jermaine Waller (Jr.)**	27	Armani Chatman (So.)
CB	**3**	**Caleb Farley (Jr.)**	37	Brion Murray (Jr.)
SS	7	Devon Hunter (Jr.)	19	J.R. Walker (Fr.)
FS	**17**	**Divine Deablo (Sr.)**	18	Tyree Rodgers (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	93	Brian Johnson (Sr.)	**KR**	35	Keshawn King (So.)
P	91	Oscar Bradburn (Sr.)	**PR**	83	Tayvion Robinson (So.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Hendon Hooker	**162**	**99**	**1,555**	**13**	**2**
Ryan Willis	117	72	906	9	5
Quincy Patterson II	**37**	**14**	**257**	**2**	**1**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Deshawn McClease	177	843	4.8	7
Hendon Hooker	**123**	**356**	**2.9**	**5**
Keshawn King	**79**	**340**	**4.3**	**2**
Quincy Patterson II	**50**	**241**	**4.8**	**2**
Tré Turner	**24**	**231**	**9.6**	**1**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Tré Turner	**34**	**553**	**16.3**	**4**
Damon Hazelton	31	527	17.0	8
Tayvion Robinson	**31**	**404**	**13.0**	**1**
James Mitchell	**21**	**361**	**17.2**	**2**

KICKING: **Brian Johnson, 19-23 FGs, 105 pts.**
TACKLES: **Rayshard Ashby, 119; Divine Deablo, 84**
SACKS: **Chamarri Conner, 5.5**
INTERCEPTIONS: **Caleb Farley, 4**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE HOKIES

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP VIRGINIA TECH

"The most interesting team in this conference going into 2020. Why are they continuing to bleed guys into the portal? Where is the offensive identity? What are they going to look like without Bud Foster, and how is that going to affect them with their fan base? This is a hell of a year coming up for Justin (Fuente). ... We're really interested in that defense's identity without Foster. That's maybe the toughest job to take in the FBS, Virginia Tech defensive coordinator after Bud Foster. There's a lot of respect for Justin, but they seemed really dysfunctional on the field last year. The front and back ends were out of sync; there seemed to be some issues off the field. ... The front seven is just OK. The corners are good but not Virginia Tech guys. There isn't a war daddy anywhere on the defensive line. There's been a step back in recruiting defensive players over the last five or six years, and it's really starting to show. This isn't the fast, long team that could create problems. ... Why are they losing so many skill position guys on offense? Their slot and their X receiver went into the portal. How many offseasons now have we seen them lose offensive guys to transfer? ... They need a big year. This should still be one of the best jobs in the league and one of the most talented teams. Right now it's neither."

AAC Preview

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1 *Cincinnati* **BEARCATS** 11-2, 7-1 AAC

2 *UCF* **KNIGHTS** 10-3, 7-1 AAC

3 *Memphis* **TIGERS** 9-3, 6-2 AAC

4 *SMU* **MUSTANGS** 8-4, 5-3 AAC

5 *Tulane* **GREEN WAVE** 6-6, 4-4 AAC

6 *Houston* **COUGARS** 6-6, 4-4 AAC

7 *Navy* **MIDSHIPMEN** 6-6, 4-4 AAC

8 *Temple* **OWLS** 6-6, 3-5 AAC

9 *Tulsa* **GOLDEN HURRICANE** 5-7, 2-6 AAC

10 *USF* **BULLS** 4-8, 1-7 AAC

11 *East Carolina* **PIRATES** 4-8, 1-7 AAC

American Athletic Conference Championship: **Cincinnati over UCF**

Games to Watch

AUG. 29
NOTRE DAME VS. NAVY (DUBLIN, IRELAND)
The setting alone makes this a must-see Week 0 matchup. Notre Dame has won three in a row and eight of the last nine in the series.

SEPT. 4
NORTH CAROLINA AT UCF
The Knights will be looking for another Power 5 win. This is the first-ever meeting between these two.

SEPT. 5
TEMPLE AT MIAMI (FLA.)
For about two weeks in December 2018, Manny Diaz was Temple's head coach. Now the Owls get their shot in a game Diaz can't afford to lose.

SEPT. 12
MEMPHIS AT PURDUE
If these teams live up to their reputations, there should be plenty of offensive fireworks at Ross-Ade Stadium.

SEPT. 26
CINCINNATI AT NEBRASKA
Cincinnati appears to be a team on the rise, while Nebraska has been stuck in mediocrity under coach Scott Frost.

SEPT. 26
TCU AT SMU
SMU claimed the Iron Skillet with a victory over TCU in Fort Worth last season. The Horned Frogs will look to restore order in this rivalry.

Ridder: Cincinnati Athletics; Sails: USF Athletics

2020 Unit Rankings

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
Cincinnati	5	3	9	2	1	4	1
East Carolina	4	10	5	11	11	10	9
Houston	8	7	2	7	7	9	8
Memphis	3	1	3	1	3	2	3
Navy	11	6	11	8	6	6	7
SMU	1	11	4	5	8	5	10
Temple	7	8	6	4	5	8	5
Tulane	9	4	8	6	4	3	6
Tulsa	6	5	7	9	10	11	11
UCF	2	2	1	3	2	1	2
USF	10	9	10	10	9	7	4

KJ Sails

2020 Bowl Projections

Armed Forces Bowl: SMU vs. Kansas State
Birmingham Bowl: Memphis vs. Southern Miss
Boca Raton Bowl: UCF vs. UAB
Fenway Bowl: Temple vs. Syracuse
Frisco Bowl: Houston vs. Oregon State
Gasparilla Bowl: Tulane vs. NC State
Military Bowl: Navy vs. Wake Forest
Peach Bowl: Cincinnati vs. Georgia

Recruiting by School

1. Cincinnati
2. Tulane
3. Memphis
4. East Carolina
5. UCF
6. SMU
7. Houston
8. Temple
9. USF
10. Tulsa
11. Navy

Desmond Ridder

AAC Coordinator Carousel

East Carolina: Defense
New: Blake Harrell
Old: Bob Trott

Houston: Offense
New: Shannon Dawson, Brandon Jones
Old: Marquel Blackwell, Brandon Jones

Memphis: Offense
New: Kevin Johns
Old: Kevin Johns, Ryan Silverfield

Memphis: Defense
New: Mike MacIntyre
Old: Adam Fuller

Navy: Defense
New: Brian Newberry
Old: Brian Newberry, Brian Norwood

SMU: Offense
New: Garrett Riley, A.J. Ricker
Old: Rhett Lashlee

Temple: Defense
New: Jeff Knowles
Old: Fran Brown, Jeff Knowles

UCF: Offense
New: Alex Golesh, Anthony Tucker
Old: Josh Heupel

USF: Offense
New: Charlie Weis Jr.
Old: Kerwin Bell

USF: Defense
New: Glenn Spencer
Old: Brian Jean-Mary

OCT. 1
MEMPHIS AT SMU
Memphis has won six in a row over SMU, including last season's 54–48 barnburner. Offense should be on full display again in this key matchup.

OCT. 16
UCF AT MEMPHIS
UCF has beaten Memphis 13 straight times, including in the 2017 and '18 AAC Championship games. But the Tigers are the reigning AAC champs.

OCT. 24
CINCINNATI AT SMU
Contrasting styles could be on display in this key matchup as Cincinnati's defense will try to slow down SMU's offense in Dallas.

OCT. 31
MEMPHIS AT CINCINNATI
Memphis has defeated Cincinnati five straight times, including twice last season. The Bearcats will look for payback.

NOV. 21
CINCINNATI AT UCF
Cincinnati knocked UCF from its perch atop the AAC East thanks to a 27–24 win at home last season. The Knights will look to return the favor.

DEC. 12
ARMY VS. NAVY (PHILADELPHIA)
Navy snapped its three-game losing streak to Army in a big way last season. College football's greatest rivalry is always a must-see matchup.

Shane Buechele

AAC Returning Leaders

Passing	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	AVG/G
Shane Buechele, SMU	490	307	62.7	3,929	34	10	302.2
Brady White, Memphis	420	269	64.0	4,014	33	11	286.7
Holton Ahlers, East Carolina	442	264	59.7	3,387	21	10	282.3

Rushing	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
Kenneth Gainwell, Memphis	231	1,459	6.3	13	75	104.2
Shamari Brooks, Tulsa	227	1,046	4.6	6	64	87.2
Re'Mahn Davis, Temple	193	936	4.8	8	55	78.0

Receiving	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
Damonte Coxie, Memphis	76	1,276	16.8	9	59	91.1
Keylon Stokes, Tulsa	62	1,040	16.8	6	62	86.7
Jadan Blue, Temple	95	1,067	11.2	4	79	82.1

Tackles: Darrick Forrest, Cincinnati (106); Diego Fagot, Navy (100)
Sacks: Jacob Springer, Navy (8.0), Ifeanyi Maijeh, Temple (6.5)
Interceptions: Ja'von Hicks, Cincinnati (5), Larry Brooks, Tulane (4), Antwan Collier, UCF (4)

2019 AAC Standings

EAST	AAC	OVERALL	WEST	AAC	OVERALL
Cincinnati	7-1	11-3	Memphis	7-1	12-2
UCF	6-2	10-3	Navy	7-1	11-2
Temple	5-3	8-5	SMU	6-2	10-3
USF	2-6	4-8	Tulane	3-5	7-6
East Carolina	1-7	4-8	Houston	2-6	4-8
Connecticut	0-8	2-10	Tulsa	2-6	4-8

2019 Bowl Results

Armed Forces Bowl: Tulane 30, Southern Miss 13
Military Bowl: North Carolina 55, Temple 13
Boca Raton Bowl: Florida Atlantic 52, SMU 28
Gasparilla Bowl: UCF 48, Marshall 25
Birmingham Bowl: Cincinnati 38, Boston College 6
Liberty Bowl: Navy 20, Kansas State 17
Cotton Bowl: Penn State 53, Memphis 39

2019 AAC Team Stats & Rankings

Offense

	SCORING	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
Cincinnati	29.6 (7)	208.0 (4)	182.3 (10)	390.3 (10)
Connecticut	18.9 (12)	128.7 (12)	216.0 (7)	344.7 (11)
East Carolina	26.8 (8)	141.3 (9)	288.8 (4)	430.2 (6)
Houston	30.7 (6)	188.2 (5)	203.3 (9)	391.5 (9)
Memphis	40.4 (3)	186.7 (6)	298.4 (3)	485.1 (3)
Navy	37.2 (4)	360.5 (1)	95.2 (12)	455.8 (4)
SMU	41.8 (2)	180.8 (7)	309.0 (2)	489.8 (2)
Temple	26.3 (9)	137.2 (11)	254.8 (6)	392.0 (8)
Tulane	33.1 (5)	243.2 (2)	206.1 (8)	449.3 (5)
Tulsa	25.9 (10)	138.3 (10)	281.3 (5)	419.7 (7)
UCF	43.4 (1)	223.8 (3)	316.7 (1)	540.5 (1)
USF	20.8 (11)	161.3 (8)	169.6 (11)	330.8 (12)

Defense

	SCORING	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
Cincinnati	20.6 (1)	138.6 (2)	222.8 (8)	361.4 (3)
Connecticut	40.5 (12)	223.6 (12)	243.3 (9)	466.8 (10)
East Carolina	33.7 (10)	207.8 (10)	261.6 (10)	469.3 (12)
Houston	34.0 (11)	179.1 (7)	288.4 (11)	467.5 (11)
Memphis	26.4 (6)	187.6 (9)	195.9 (2)	383.5 (6)
Navy	22.3 (2)	105.8 (1)	208.3 (4)	314.2 (1)
SMU	32.9 (9)	156.4 (5)	288.6 (12)	445.0 (9)
Temple	25.9 (4)	158.9 (6)	218.9 (6)	377.8 (5)
Tulane	26.3 (5)	156.3 (4)	220.7 (7)	377.0 (4)
Tulsa	31.3 (8)	185.1 (8)	209.7 (5)	394.8 (7)
UCF	23.0 (3)	146.6 (3)	199.5 (3)	346.1 (2)
USF	28.9 (7)	208.6 (11)	189.5 (1)	398.1 (8)

Buechele, Roberson Jr.: Vladimir Cherry/SMU; Brooks: Tulsa Athletics; Fagot: Navy Athletics

ALL-AAC TEAM

First-Team Offense

QB	**Shane Buechele**	6-1	207	Sr.	SMU
RB	**Shamari Brooks**	5-9	190	Sr.	Tulsa
RB	**Gerrid Doaks**	6-0	230	Sr.	Cincinnati
AP	**Kenneth Gainwell**	5-11	191	So.	Memphis
WR	**Marquez Stevenson**	6-0	190	Sr.	Houston
WR	**Damonte Coxie**	6-3	197	Sr.	Memphis
TE	**Kylen Granson**	6-3	235	Sr.	SMU
C	**Dylan Parham**	6-3	286	Jr.	Memphis
OL	**Cole Schneider**	6-4	312	Jr.	UCF
OL	**Jaylon Thomas**	6-3	312	Jr.	SMU
OL	**Vincent Picozzi**	6-4	305	Sr.	Temple
OL	**James Hudson**	6-5	308	Jr.	Cincinnati

Shamari Brooks

Diego Fagot

First-Team Defense

DL	**Elijah Ponder**	6-3	275	Sr.	Cincinnati
DL	**Ifeanyi Maijeh**	6-2	285	Jr.	Temple
DL	**Kenny Turnier**	6-4	285	Sr.	UCF
DL	**Myjai Sanders**	6-5	258	Jr.	Cincinnati
LB	**Diego Fagot**	6-3	240	Jr.	Navy
LB	**Patrick Johnson**	6-3	250	Sr.	Tulane
LB	**Zaven Collins**	6-4	260	Jr.	Tulsa
CB	**Ahmad Gardner**	6-2	185	So.	Cincinnati
CB	**KJ Sails**	5-11	175	Sr.	USF
S	**Richie Grant**	6-0	194	Sr.	UCF
S	**James Wiggins**	6-0	205	Sr.	Cincinnati

First-Team Specialists

K	**Riley Patterson**	6-0	190	Sr.	Memphis
P	**James Smith**	6-5	232	Sr.	Cincinnati
KR	**Marquez Stevenson**	6-0	190	Sr.	Houston
PR	**Otis Anderson**	5-11	174	Sr.	UCF

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	**Dillon Gabriel**	6-0	186	So.	UCF
RB	**Corey Dauphine**	6-0	195	Sr.	Tulane
RB	**Jamale Carothers**	5-9	203	Jr.	Navy
AP	**Keylon Stokes**	6-0	194	Sr.	Tulsa
WR	**C.J. Johnson**	6-2	229	So.	East Carolina
WR	**Reggie Roberson Jr.**	6-0	200	Sr.	SMU
TE	**Sean Dykes**	6-2	221	Sr.	Memphis
C	**Brad Cecil**	6-4	307	Jr.	USF
OL	**D'Ante Smith**	6-4	289	Sr.	East Carolina
OL	**Corey Dublin**	6-4	300	Sr.	Tulane
OL	**Billy Honaker**	6-3	282	Sr.	Navy
OL	**Peter Nestrowitz**	6-3	282	Sr.	Navy

Dillon Gabriel
UCF

Brady White
Memphis

C.J. Johnson
East Carolina

Reggie Roberson Jr.
SMU

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	**O'Bryan Goodson**	6-1	283	Sr.	Memphis
DL	**Joseph Dorceus**	6-0	260	Sr.	Memphis
DL	**Daniel Archibong**	6-6	300	Sr.	Temple
DL	**Payton Turner**	6-6	288	Sr.	Houston
LB	**Richard McBryde**	6-1	232	Sr.	SMU
LB	**Eric Mitchell**	6-2	238	Sr.	UCF
LB	**Jarell White**	5-10	212	Sr.	Cincinnati
CB	**T.J. Carter**	5-11	189	Sr.	Memphis
CB	**Aaron Robinson**	6-1	193	Sr.	UCF
S	**Antwan Collier**	6-3	195	Sr.	UCF
S	**Darrick Forrest**	6-0	200	Sr.	Cincinnati

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	**Jake Verity**	6-1	197	Sr.	East Carolina
P	**Trent Schneider**	6-0	200	Sr.	USF
KR	**Tyler Snead**	5-7	167	So.	East Carolina
PR	**Pop Williams**	5-9	169	Sr.	Memphis

THIRD-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	**Brady White**	6-3	215	Sr.	Memphis
RB	**Greg McCrae**	5-10	175	Sr.	UCF
RB	**Re'Mahn Davis**	5-9	210	So.	Temple
AP	**Otis Anderson**	5-11	174	Sr.	UCF
WR	**Jadan Blue**	6-0	185	Jr.	Temple
WR	**Tre Nixon**	6-2	180	Sr.	UCF
TE	**Christian Trahan**	6-3	235	Jr.	Houston
C	**Jakari Robinson**	6-0	308	Jr.	Cincinnati
OL	**Samuel Jackson**	6-6	335	Jr.	UCF
OL	**Chris Paul**	6-4	331	Jr.	Tulsa
OL	**Manuel Orona-Lopez**	6-3	289	Sr.	Memphis
OL	**Isaac Moore**	6-7	305	Jr.	Temple

THIRD-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	**J'arius Warren**	6-1	257	Jr.	Navy
DL	**Cameron Sample**	6-3	280	Sr.	Tulane
DL	**Randy Charlton**	6-3	258	Jr.	UCF
DL	**Turner Coxe**	6-2	247	Jr.	SMU
LB	**Grant Stuard**	6-1	210	Sr.	Houston
LB	**Xavier Smith**	6-0	244	Jr.	East Carolina
LB	**Dwayne Boyles**	6-3	227	Jr.	USF
CB	**Christian Braswell**	5-10	178	Jr.	Temple
CB	**Jaylon Monroe**	5-9	175	Sr.	Tulane
S	**Kevin Brennan**	5-11	199	Jr.	Navy
S	**Davondre Robinson**	6-0	201	Sr.	East Carolina

THIRD-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	**Dalton Witherspoon**	5-9	170	Sr.	Houston
P	**Adam Williams**	6-5	238	Jr.	Memphis
KR	**Amare Jones**	5-11	190	Jr.	Tulane
PR	**Ryan Montgomery**	5-10	200	So.	Cincinnati

Gabriel: UCF Athletics; White: Memphis Athletics; Johnson: ECU Athletics

CINCINNATI Bearcats

National Forecast: **21** · AAC Prediction: **1** · Projected Record: **11-2, 7-1 AAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3	Austin Peay
Sept.	11	Western Michigan
Sept.	19	at Miami (Ohio)
Sept.	26	at Nebraska
Oct.	3	USF
Oct.	17	at Tulsa
Oct.	24	at SMU
Oct.	31	Memphis
Nov.	7	Houston
Nov.	12	East Carolina
Nov.	21	at UCF
Nov.	28	at Temple

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 11-3, 7-1 AAC

Aug.	29	UCLA	W	24-14
Sept.	7	at Ohio State	L	0-42
Sept.	14	Miami (Ohio)	W	35-13
Sept.	28	at Marshall	W	52-14
Oct.	5	UCF	W	27-24
Oct.	12	at Houston	W	38-23
Oct.	19	Tulsa	W	24-13
Nov.	2	at East Carolina	W	46-43
Nov.	9	Connecticut	W	48-3
Nov.	16	at USF	W	20-17
Nov.	23	Temple	W	15-13
Nov.	29	at Memphis	L	24-34
Dec.	7	at Memphis #	L	24-29
Jan.	2	vs. Boston College %	W	38-6

#AAC Championship %Birmingham Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Evan Prater, QB, Cincinnati, OH
2. Jaheim Thomas, LB, Cincinnati, OH
3. Jadon Thompson, WR, Naperville, IL
4. Sammy Anderson, CB, Dayton, OH
5. De'Arre McDonald, CB, Murfreesboro, TN
6. Justin Wodtly, DT, Cleveland, OH
7. Marquez Bell, WR, Lake City, FL
8. Chris Scott, WR, Pickerington, OH
9. Kobe McAllister, OT, Ringgold, GA
10. Ethan Wright, ATH, Akron, OH

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	AAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	29.6 ppg	7	60
Rushing	208.0 ypg	4	25
Passing	182.3 ypg	10	107
Total	390.3 ypg	10	80
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	20.6 ppg	1	24
Rushing	138.6 ypg	2	44
Passing	222.8 ypg	8	60
Total	361.4 ypg	3	40
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
+6	+0.43	3	31

STAT CORNER

26.3%

Cincinnati allowed five first downs on 19 fourth-down attempts in 2019, a 26.3 percent rate that led the AAC and was second in the country.

OFFENSE Cincinnati's running game was strong again in 2019, finishing 25th nationally, but now the Bearcats must replace Michael Warren II after the junior declared for the 2020 NFL Draft. Replacing Warren will be no small task, but the Bearcats do have several options, led by senior Gerrid Doaks, who amassed 526 yards and five TDs in 2019, and Alabama transfer Jerome Ford, who has been ruled immediately eligible. Add in dual-threat quarterback Desmond Ridder, and the ground game should be ready to function at a high level once again.

Ridder started all but one game in 2019 but was hampered by injuries most of the season. He will look to bounce back in 2020 after seeing his numbers decline from his AAC Rookie of the Year 2018 season. The Bearcats will need to find a replacement for departed tight end Josiah Deguara, who led the team in receptions and receiving touchdowns. A No. 1 target at wide receiver is likely already on the roster in junior Alec Pierce, but the group has questions.

The offensive line will receive a major boost as Michigan transfer James Hudson will now be eligible after sitting out 2019. While the UC line spent most of last season in flux due to injury, the 2020 group has a chance to be special with junior Jakari Robinson back for another season at center and starting right tackle Darius Harper also returning.

DEFENSE The Bearcats defense wasn't as dominant, but it was still very good, finishing 24th nationally in scoring defense (20.6 ppg), 40th in total defense (361.4 ypg), and 15th in pass efficiency defense. The biggest question mark will be at linebacker, as Cincinnati must replace a pair of all-league players in Bryan Wright and Perry Young.

Helping offset the losses at linebacker is a defensive line that returns almost the entire two-deep and a defensive backfield that sees star safety James Wiggins return after a missed season due to injury. Up front, senior Elijah Ponder and junior Myjai Sanders will look to build off their breakout 2019 seasons.

The secondary also brings back All-AAC corner Ahmad Gardner and junior safety Ja'von Hicks, who led the team with five interceptions and four fumble recoveries. Senior corner Coby Bryant, sophomore corner Arquon Bush and senior safety Darrick Forrest also return, making this one of the most formidable groups in school history.

SPECIALISTS Grad transfer Sam Crosa was 14-of-19 on field goals and perfect with his extra-point attempts. Most likely to replace Crosa is Cole Smith. Former Ray Guy Award finalist James Smith returns after a season in which his net punting average fell a bit. The return game took big strides in 2019 with Ryan Montgomery and Tre Tucker, both of whom return.

FINAL ANALYSIS After seeing coach Luke Fickell turn down Michigan State and other Power 5 opportunities, the Bearcats will be trying to reach even greater heights after their back-to-back 11-win seasons. Making the jump from good to great will not be easy, as UC must travel to Nebraska and UCF while hosting defending AAC champion Memphis. But given the returning experience and strong recruiting Fickell and his staff have produced, expectations in the Queen City are a return trip to the AAC Championship and possibly a New Year's Six bowl berth.

Desmond Ridder

"The best and most complete team in the league. They won't go track-meet with you; they want to be the Big Ten-type of maulers who control the game and play defense."

— An opposing AAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (5)				
WR	**12**	**Alec Pierce (Jr.)**	13	Trent Cloud (Jr.)
WR	2	Jayshon Jackson (Jr.)	21	Tre Tucker (So.)
WR	84	Wyatt Fischer (So.)	15	Garyn Prater (Jr.)
LT	55	James Hudson (Jr.)	50	Dylan O'Quinn (So.)
LG	74	Jeremy Cooper (So.)	71	Colin Woodside (So.)
C	**52**	**Jakari Robinson (Jr.)**	55	Zach Hummel (Fr.)
RG	77	Vincent McConnell (Jr.)	76	Marcelo Mendiola (Fr.)
RT	**58**	**Darius Harper (Sr.)**	**51**	**Lorenz Metz (So.)**
TE	87	Bruno Labelle (Sr.)	11	Leonard Taylor (Jr.)
QB	**9**	**Desmond Ridder (Jr.)**	6	Ben Bryant (So.)
RB	23	Gerrid Doaks (Sr.)	24	Jerome Ford (Fr.)
DEFENSE (10)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	**93**	**Elijah Ponder (Sr.)**	42	Malik Vann (Jr.)
DT	**90**	**Jabari Taylor (Jr.)**	97	Eric Phillips (Fr.)
DT	92	Curtis Brooks (Sr.)	99	Marcus Brown (Sr.)
DE	**21**	**Myjai Sanders (Jr.)**	**43**	**Michael Pitts (Sr.)**
OLB	**27**	**Darrian Beavers (Sr.)**	17	Dorian Holloway (Fr.)
MLB	41	Joel Dublanko (Sr.)	2	Wilson Huber (Jr.)
OLB	8	Jarell White (Sr.)	13	Ty Van Fossen (So.)
CB	**12**	**Ahmad Gardner (So.)**	9	Arquon Bush (So.)
CB	**7**	**Coby Bryant (Sr.)**	15	Taj Ward (So.)
SS	**32**	**James Wiggins (Sr.)**	20	Bryan Cook (Sr.)
FS	**5**	**Darrick Forrest (Sr.)**	**3**	**Ja'von Hicks (Jr.)**
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	19	Cole Smith (Jr.)	**KR** 21	Tre Tucker (So.)
P	37	James Smith (Sr.)	**PR** 22	Ryan Montgomery (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Desmond Ridder, 325-179-2,164-9, 18 TDs
Rushing: Desmond Ridder, 144 att., 675 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Alec Pierce, 37 rec., 652 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Darrick Forrest, 106
Sacks: Michael Pitts, 5.5
Interceptions: Ja'von Hicks, 5

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Luke Fickell
Record at School: 26-13 (3 years)
Career Record: 32-20 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Denbrock
Defensive Coordinator: Marcus Freeman
Cincinnati, OH • Nippert Stadium (40,000)

Cincinnati Athletics

ballistic
MAGAZINE

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EAST CAROLINA Pirates

National Forecast: **100** · AAC Prediction: **11** · Projected Record: **4-8, 1-7 AAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Aug.	29	Marshall
Sept.	12	at South Carolina
Sept.	19	Norfolk State
Sept.	24	UCF
Oct.	3	at Georgia State
Oct.	10	at USF
Oct.	17	Navy
Oct.	30	at Tulsa
Nov.	7	Tulane
Nov.	12	at Cincinnati
Nov.	21	at Temple
Nov.	28	SMU

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 4-8, 1-7 AAC

Aug.	31	at NC State	L	6-34
Sept.	7	Gardner-Webb	W	48-9
Sept.	14	at Navy	L	10-42
Sept.	21	William & Mary	W	19-7
Sept.	28	at Old Dominion	W	24-21
Oct.	4	Temple	L	17-27
Oct.	19	at UCF	L	28-41
Oct.	26	USF	L	20-45
Nov.	2	Cincinnati	L	43-46
Nov.	9	at SMU	L	51-59
Nov.	23	at Connecticut	W	31-24
Nov.	30	Tulsa	L	24-49

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Mason Garcia, QB, Myrtle Beach, SC
2. Shane Calhoun, TE, Saint Augustine, FL
3. Rahjai Harris, RB, Duncan, SC
4. Sean Tucker, CB, Washington, DC
5. J'Vian McCray, DT, Shallotte, NC
6. Xavier McIver, DT, Cheraw, SC
7. Jason Romero, DE, Laurinburg, NC
8. Eric Doctor, LB, Orlando, FL
9. Teagan Wilk, S, Berwick, PA
10. David Laney, ATH, Highland Springs, VA

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	AAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	26.8 ppg	8	78
Rushing	141.3 ypg	9	91
Passing	288.8 ypg	4	22
Total	430.2 ypg	6	46
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	33.7 ppg	10	111
Rushing	207.8 ypg	10	113
Passing	261.6 ypg	10	108
Total	469.3 ypg	12	119
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
+1	+0.08	6	53

STAT CORNER

26.53

Holton Ahlers' mobility played a major role in East Carolina allowing one sack every 26.53 pass attempts in 2019 to rank first in the AAC and No. 7 nationally in that category.

OFFENSE Homegrown Holton Ahlers was handed the helm of the Pirate ship during a bye week last year, as coach Mike Houston set a new course. From then, with Ahlers airing it out behind more protection, East Carolina rang up nearly 500 yards per game over the final six contests.

Ahlers completed 59.7 percent of his throws and finished with 3,387 yards and 21 touchdowns. He added another six scores on the ground and was second on the team with 359 yards rushing. Houston likes a strong running game, and he's hoping his backfield crew can do more of the heavy lifting there this season. Demetrius Mauney led the way with 446 yards, but Darius Pinnix Jr. started much of the season and averaged 4.0 yards per carry.

The question is how the depth-shy line will do. Tackle D'Ante Smith is a stud, and Noah Henderson looks like the next big thing, but there are question marks all over the two-deep, particularly at center, where John Spellacy had to retire for medical reasons. Veteran guard Cortez Herrin's return from a team suspension could shore things up.

Coaches are also hoping some depth emerges at receiver, although they're covered there — or uncovered with this talented crew. C.J. Johnson was on a couple of Freshman All-America lists and led the team with 908 yards on 54 catches. Fellow sophomore Tyler Snead had 66 receptions for 759 yards. Steady Blake Proehl is also back, and tight ends Zech Byrd and Jeremy Lewis seem ready to take a step.

DEFENSE Houston let his long-time defensive coordinator Bob Trott go and hired Blake Harrell to install a new multiple-look package, which probably could have used some work in the spring. Harrell has a history with Houston, too, and did good things at Kennesaw State and The Citadel.

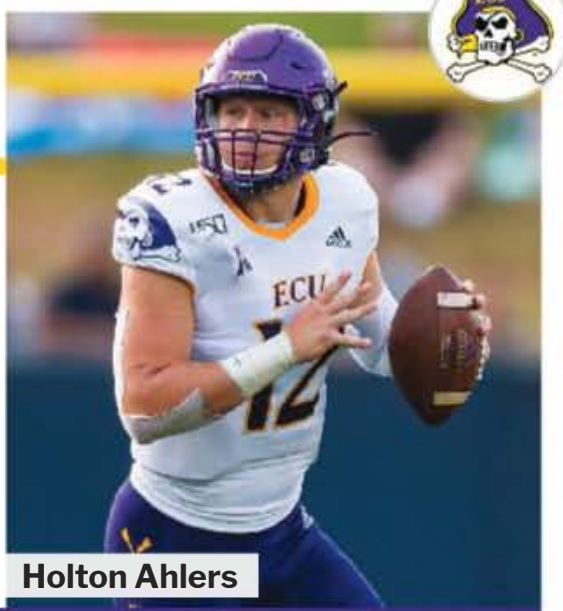
The Pirates defense struggled last year, and compounding the issues, all four starters are gone up front in the base 4-2-5 pending the unsure status of Chance Purvis, who was suspended this offseason.

Redshirt freshman Traveon Freshwater needs to become what everyone thought he was as the top recruit in his class. Rick D'Abreu, who impressed as a freshman, will again get a lot of work, and senior Hozey Haji-Badri steps into the middle. Junior college transfers Henry Garrison and Elijah Robinson can help, too.

At linebacker, experienced Xavier Smith and Bruce Bivens lead the way inside with Gerard Stringer at the swing spot. The secondary is solid. Freshman All-America corner Ja'Quan McMillian is the real deal, and safeties Tank Robinson and Daniel Charles are seasoned vets. There is a pack of Pirates pushing behind them.

SPECIALISTS These units blocked two punts and returned a kickoff for a score, but they're under new management in assistant Byron Thweatt. Senior Jake Verity is back after hitting 24-of-29 field-goal attempts and all 33 PATs. Punter Jonn Young and his 40.6-yard average are back, too.

FINAL ANALYSIS Houston, we have fewer problems. The coach is doing what he has done everywhere he has been — building a winner. The offense is good enough to get the Pirates over .500 for the first time in six years, particularly with Ahlers and Johnson making plays. If things come together on the defensive line, count on the Pirates hoisting the Jolly Roger again.



Holton Ahlers

"They're going to be improved, but we don't think they're there yet. The roster was in shambles, and it's gonna take them another cycle to dig out in recruiting."

— An opposing AAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)				
WR	**5**	**C.J. Johnson (So.)**	8	Audie Omotosho (Sr.)
WR	**22**	**Tyler Snead (So.)**	88	Jsi Hatfield (So.)
WR	**11**	**Blake Proehl (Jr.)**	81	Andre Pegues (So.)
LT	**67**	**D'Ante Smith (Sr.)**	71	Bailey Malovic (Sr.)
LG	**66**	**Fernando Frye (Sr.)**	**70**	**Cortez Herrin (Sr.)**
C	57	Peyton Winstead (So.)	65	Trent Holler (Fr.)
RG	**75**	**Sean Bailey (Sr.)**	62	Nishad Strother (Fr.)
RT	69	Noah Henderson (So.)	77	Walt Stribling (Fr.)
TE	84	Zech Byrd (Jr.)	89	Jeremy Lewis (So.)
QB	**12**	**Holton Ahlers (Jr.)**	4	Bryan Gagg (Fr.)
RB	7	Darius Pinnix Jr. (Sr.)	3	Demetrius Mauney (So.)
DEFENSE (7)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	**46**	**Chance Purvis (Sr.)**	49	Traveon Freshwater (Fr.)
NT	95	Hozey Haji-Badri (Sr.)	98	Keziah Everett (Fr.)
DT	97	Immanuel Hickman (Fr.)	96	D'Angelo McKinnie (So.)
DE	45	Rick D'Abreu (So.)	93	Henry Garrison (Jr.)
MLB	**37**	**Xavier Smith (Jr.)**	39	Delvontae Harris (Jr.)
MLB	**38**	**Bruce Bivens (Sr.)**	34	Myles Berry (Jr.)
OLB	**30**	**Gerard Stringer (Jr.)**	15	Alex Angus (Fr.)
CB	**21**	**Ja'Quan McMillan (So.)**	23	Damel Hickman (So.)
CB	4	Malik Fleming (So.)	24	Teagan Wilk (Fr.)
SS	**27**	**Daniel Charles (Jr.)**	14	Juan Powell (Fr.)
FS	**13**	**Tank Robinson (Sr.)**	35	Jireh Wilson (So.)
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	9	Jake Verity (Sr.)	**KR** 22	Tyler Snead (So.)
P	43	Jonn Young (Sr.)	**PR** 22	Tyler Snead (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Holton Ahlers, 422-264-3,387-10, 21 TDs
Rushing: Demetrius Mauney, 125 att., 446 yds., 1 TD
Receiving: C.J. Johnson, 54 rec., 908 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Xavier Smith, 81
Sacks: Chance Purvis, 4.0
Interceptions: Tank Robinson, 3

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Mike Houston
Record at School: 4-8 (1 year)
Career Record: 84-33 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Donnie Kirkpatrick
Defensive Coordinator: Blake Harrell
Greenville, NC • Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium (50,000)

Rob Goldberg Jr.

HOUSTON Cougars

National Forecast: **70** • AAC Prediction: **6** • Projected Record: **6-6, 4-4 AAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3	Rice
Sept.	12	at Washington State
Sept.	19	at Memphis
Sept.	26	North Texas
Oct.	8	Tulane
Oct.	16	at BYU
Oct.	24	at Navy
Oct.	31	UCF
Nov.	7	at Cincinnati
Nov.	14	USF
Nov.	21	at SMU
Nov.	28	Tulsa

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 4-8, 2-6 AAC

Sept.	1	at Oklahoma	L	31-49
Sept.	8	Prairie View	W	37-17
Sept.	13	Washington State	L	24-31
Sept.	20	at Tulane	L	31-38
Sept.	29	at North Texas	W	46-25
Oct.	12	Cincinnati	L	23-38
Oct.	19	at Connecticut	W	24-17
Oct.	24	SMU	L	31-34
Nov.	2	at UCF	L	29-44
Nov.	16	Memphis	L	27-45
Nov.	23	at Tulsa	W	24-14
Nov.	30	Navy	L	41-56

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Chidozie Nwankwo, DT, Richmond, TX
2. Derek Bowman, OG, Magnolia, TX
3. Sofian Massoud, ATH, Katy, TX
4. Stacy Sneed, RB, Arlington, TX
5. Dylan Robinson, WR, Humble, TX
6. Khiyon Wafer, WR, Frisco, TX
7. Sedrick Williams, DT, Houma, LA*
8. Jayce Rogers, CB, Valdosta, GA*
9. D'Anthony Jones, LB, Lawndale, CA*
10. Ugonna Nnanna, OT, Arlington, TX

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	AAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	30.7 ppg	6	51
Rushing	188.2 ypg	5	37
Passing	203.3 ypg	9	91
Total	391.5 ypg	9	78
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	34.0 ppg	11	113
Rushing	179.1 ypg	7	85
Passing	288.4 ypg	11	124
Total	467.5 ypg	11	118
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
-7	-0.58	11	111

STAT CORNER

-12.69

Houston, which averaged 77.69 snaps per game in 2018, slowed to 65.0 plays per game last year. The 12.69-play decrease was the largest in the country.

OFFENSE Clayton Tune is the clear-cut No. 1 quarterback. Tune was forced into action late in 2018 when starter D'Eriq King suffered a torn ACL, and a month into last season when King used the four-game redshirt rule to sit the rest of the season; King eventually transferred to Miami (Fla.). Tune passed for 1,533 yards and 11 touchdowns in seven games while battling nagging injuries and should take a big step in development after spending a year in coach Dana Holgorsen's Air Raid system.

Shannon Dawson was promoted from tight ends coach to offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach and will have a unit that returns virtually intact, including Kyle Porter and Mulbah Car in the backfield and the top four targets in Marquez Stevenson (nearly 2,000 receiving yards the last two seasons), Jeremy Singleton, Christian Trahan, and Keith Corbin. One key addition to keep an eye on: Nathaniel Dell, a juco signee who has been clocked at 4.3 seconds in the 40.

The injury-ravaged offensive line used eight different starting combinations, and 12 players made at least one start last season. The result is an experienced right side. Braylon Jones shifts from center to right guard after missing most of the season with a shoulder injury. Redshirt freshman Patrick Paul will replace Josh Jones at left tackle.

DEFENSE Help is on the way for a defense that struggled with injuries and ranked near the bottom nationally in many major categories, including total defense (467.5 ypg), pass defense (288.4 ypg), and points allowed (34.0 ppg). The biggest change will come in the secondary with a handful of transfers who sat out last season or arrived in the offseason: JoVanni Stewart (West Virginia), Marcus Jones (Troy), Kelvin Clemmons (Minnesota), Hasaan Hypolite (Colorado), and Thabo Mwaniki (Oklahoma State).

Grant Stuard, who had a career-high 97 tackles and earned second-team All-AAC honors, moves from nickel to linebacker. That will allow Stewart and Jordan Moore to get most of the action at nickel. Linebacker could be one of the deepest positions with Stuard, Donavan Mutin, Zamar Kirven and a healthy Terrance Edgeston.

Payton Turner and David Anenih anchor the defensive line, which suffered a setback when former five-star recruit and Alabama signee Eyabi Anoma was dismissed from the team in February.

SPECIALISTS Dalton Witherspoon came on strong at the end of last season, finishing 20-of-24 on field goals, including a school-record 14 in a row. The Australian pipeline continues with freshman punter Laine Wilkins, who replaces Ray Guy Award finalist Dane Roy. Stevenson and Marcus Jones could give the Cougars one of the most explosive return games in the AAC.

FINAL ANALYSIS Between redshirt talk, injuries and a 4–8 record that snapped a six-year bowl streak, Holgorsen's first season was a constant struggle. A mix of key returners and influx of talented players from Power 5 programs should help Houston climb back to respectability. Since going 13–1 and winning a New Year's Six bowl in 2015, the Cougars are 28–22 in the last four years. "This thing is going to get really good really quick," Holgorsen said during the offseason. "I think everybody knows that."

Marquez Stevenson

"Dana (Holgorsen) knows how to do it. They could compete for the division if the defense gets better. Last year they basically had no upperclassmen playing at all."

— An opposing AAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (9)				
WR	**5**	**Marquez Stevenson (Sr.)**	80	Nathaniel Dell (So.)
WR	2	Keith Corbin (Sr.)	1	Bryson Smith (Jr.)
WR	**13**	**Jeremy Singleton (Jr.)**	**81**	**Tre'Von Bradley (Jr.)**
LT	76	Patrick Paul (Fr.)		Reuben Unije (So.)
LG	77	Keenan Murphy (Sr.)	67	Cam'ron Johnson (Fr.)
C	**75**	**Jack Freeman (So.)**	79	Chayse Todd (Fr.)
RG	**52**	**Braylon Jones (Sr.)**	71	Max Banes (So.)
RT	**65**	**Gio Pancotti (Sr.)**	70	Jordan Boatman (Jr.)
TE	**85**	**Christian Trahan (Jr.)**	88	Shane Creamer (Jr.)
QB	**3**	**Clayton Tune (Jr.)**	6	Logan Holgorsen (So.)
RB	**22**	**Kyle Porter (Sr.)**	34	Mulbah Car (Sr.)
DEFENSE (7)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	**98**	**Payton Turner (Sr.)**	92	Logan Hall (Jr.)
NT	99	Olivier Charles-Pierre (Sr.)	94	Sedrick Williams (Jr.)
DT	95	Jamykal Neal (Jr.)	23	Willie Smith III (So.)
DE	**12**	**David Anenih (Sr.)**	31	Derek Parish (Jr.)
MLB	**24**	**Donavan Mutin (Jr.)**	15	Zamar Kirven (Jr.)
OLB	**3**	**Grant Stuard (Sr.)**	42	Terrance Edgeston (Sr.)
CB	**6**	**Damarion Williams (Sr.)**	19	Javian Smith (Jr.)
CB	13	Marcus Jones (Jr.)	18	Kelvin Clemmons (Jr.)
NB	9	JoVanni Stewart (Sr.)	20	Jordan Moore (So.)
BS	**2**	**Deontay Anderson (Sr.)**	17	Hasaan Hypolite (So.)
FS	**32**	**Gervarrius Owens (Jr.)**	28	Thabo Mwaniki (Jr.)
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	47	Dalton Witherspoon (Sr.)	**KR** 5	Marquez Stevenson (Sr.)
P	22	Laine Wilkins (Fr.)	**PR** 13	Marcus Jones (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Clayton Tune, 179-106-1,533-9, 11 TDs
Rushing: Kyle Porter, 130 att., 615 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Marquez Stevenson, 52 rec., 907 yds., 9 TDs
Tackles: Grant Stuard, 97
Sacks: David Anenih, 5.0
Interceptions: Damarion Williams, 2

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Dana Holgorsen
Record at School: 4-8 (1 year)
Career Record: 65-49 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinators: Shannon Dawson, Brandon Jones
Defensive Coordinators: Doug Belk, Joe Cauthen
Houston, TX • TDECU Stadium (40,000)

Houston Athletics

MEMPHIS Tigers

National Forecast: **28** · AAC Prediction: **3** · Projected Record: **9-3, 6-2 AAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Arkansas State
Sept.	12	at Purdue
Sept.	19	Houston
Sept.	26	at UTSA
Oct.	1	at SMU
Oct.	16	UCF
Oct.	24	Temple
Oct.	31	at Cincinnati
Nov.	7	USF
Nov.	14	at Navy
Nov.	21	Tennessee-Martin
Nov.	28	at Tulane

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 12-2, 7-1 AAC

Aug.	31	Ole Miss	W	15-10
Sept.	7	Southern	W	55-24
Sept.	14	at South Alabama	W	42-6
Sept.	27	Navy	W	35-23
Oct.	5	at UL Monroe	W	52-33
Oct.	12	at Temple	L	28-30
Oct.	19	Tulane	W	47-17
Oct.	26	at Tulsa	W	42-41
Nov.	2	SMU	W	54-48
Nov.	16	at Houston	W	45-27
Nov.	23	at USF	W	49-10
Nov.	29	Cincinnati	W	34-24
Dec.	7	Cincinnati #	W	29-24
Dec.	28	vs. Penn State %	L	39-53

#AAC Championship %Cotton Bowl Classic

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kundarrius Taylor, WR, Memphis, TN*
2. Keilon Brown, QB, Zachary, LA
3. Khi Mathieu, WR, New Orleans, LA
4. Kalyn Grandberry, RB, Memphis, TN*
5. Devonte Nelson, CB, Memphis, TN
6. An'Darius Coffey, ATH, Winona, MS
7. Marcayll Jones, WR, Warner Robins, GA
8. Mitchell Gildehaus, OT, Washington, MO
9. Kobe Webster, WR, Texarkana, TX
10. Jonah Gambill, OT, Cartersville, GA

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	AAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	40.4 ppg	3	8
Rushing	186.7 ypg	6	39
Passing	298.4 ypg	3	17
Total	485.1 ypg	3	10
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	26.4 ppg	6	58
Rushing	187.6 ypg	9	93
Passing	195.9 ypg	2	20
Total	383.5 ypg	6	61
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
-1	-0.07	8	69

STAT CORNER

8.16%

Memphis attempted 441 passes, 36 of which gained 30 yards or more. The 8.16 percent explosive pass rate was seventh best in the country.

OFFENSE New coach Ryan Silverfield began his tenure following the departure of Mike Norvell to Florida State by displaying his skills as a recruiter. Silverfield got receiver Damonte Coxie and quarterback Brady White — two seniors — to return following the most successful season in the program's history. The Tigers earned the school's first New Year's Six Bowl, making a trip to the Cotton Bowl following a victory over Cincinnati in the American Athletic Conference title game.

In White and Coxie — along with running back Kenneth Gainwell — Silverfield has the foundation of a prolific offense in place. White passed for 4,014 yards and 33 touchdowns, becoming only the second player in school history to pass for 4,000 yards; Coxie caught 76 passes for 1,276 yards and nine TDs; and Gainwell rushed for 1,459 yards, tops among the nation's freshmen.

The offense also will be bolstered by the return of three starters on the offensive line and the return of tight end Sean Dykes and receiver John "Pop" Williams. Dykes and Williams are coming back from season-ending injuries.

DEFENSE The departure of Norvell caused several of his Memphis assistants to follow him to FSU, including defensive coordinator Adam Fuller. But Silverfield filled the opening with Mike MacIntyre, a former two-time national coach of the year (San Jose State, Colorado) who spent 2019 as the Ole Miss defensive coordinator. MacIntyre inherits a unit that returns seven starters, among them defensive back T.J. Carter, a key piece in a deep secondary. Carter suffered a season-ending injury in the regular-season finale against Cincinnati and missed the league championship game and the Cotton Bowl. He will be back to lead a defense that created turnovers but yielded too many big plays.

Up front, the Tigers are solid with the return of linemen Joseph Dorceus and O'Bryan Goodson. Dorceus ranked second on the team with 14.5 tackles for a loss. At linebacker, J.J. Russell is back after posting 58 tackles in back-to-back seasons.

SPECIALISTS Silverfield retained position coach Pete Lembo, who was a nominee for the Broyles Award as the nation's top assistant. Under Lembo's direction, the Tigers returned three kickoffs for touchdowns and finished second nationally in the ESPN special teams efficiency rankings. The return game should be solid with Williams back to handle punts and Gabe Rogers handling kickoffs. Rogers returned the first kickoff of his career last year 99 yards for a TD against Navy. Kicker Riley Patterson and junior punter Adam Williams also return.

FINAL ANALYSIS Memphis will be poised to repeat as AAC champions behind the wealth of talent returning on offense and the addition of MacIntyre as defensive coordinator. White begins his third season as the starter following an impressive 2019, which ended with a 454-yard passing performance in the Cotton Bowl against Penn State. To make a fourth straight conference championship game — and a second straight New Year's Six Bowl — the defense holds the key. MacIntyre is a strong hire for Silverfield, not only as a coordinator, but also as a mentor, as he brings 10 years of head-coaching experience.

Kenneth Gainwell

"They're the most talented program in the league at the skill positions. The question is the coaching staff. Ryan (Silverfield) has inherited a great program. It's on him now."

— An opposing AAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)				
WR	9	Pop Williams (Sr.)	18	Tahj Washington (Fr.)
WR	**10**	**Damonte Coxie (Sr.)**	13	Javon Ivory (Fr.)
WR	84	Calvin Austin III (Jr.)	80	Coye' Fairman (Jr.)
LT	**77**	**Obinna Eze (Jr.)**	73	Titus Jones (So.)
LG	74	Isaac Ellis (So.)	50	Jared Edwards (So.)
C	**56**	**Dylan Parham (Jr.)**	70	Jacob Likes (Fr.)
RG	**67**	**Manuel Orona-Lopez (Sr.)**	71	Evan Fields (So.)
RT	58	Brian Thomas (Jr.)	72	Michael Denson (So.)
TE	5	Sean Dykes (Sr.)	45	Kameron Wilson (So.)
QB	**3**	**Brady White (Sr.)**	8	Connor Adair (Jr.)
RB	**19**	**Kenneth Gainwell (So.)**	17	Kylan Watkins (Jr.)
DEFENSE (7)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	7	John Tate IV (Sr.)	6	Kayode Oladele (So.)
NT	**1**	**O'Bryan Goodson (Sr.)**	79	Nigel Brannon (So.)
DE	**94**	**Joseph Dorceus (Sr.)**	97	Wardalis Ducksworth (Jr.)
OLB	8	Xavier Cullens (Jr.)	43	Ja'Len Sims (Fr.)
MLB	**23**	**JJ Russell (Sr.)**	35	Tim Hart (Sr.)
MLB	13	Jalil Clemons (So.)	37	Jaylon Allen (So.)
OLB	**40**	**Thomas Pickens (Sr.)**	46	Cole Mashburn (Fr.)
CB	**2**	**T.J. Carter (Sr.)**	18	Gabriel Rogers (Jr.)
CB	**32**	**Jacobi Francis (Sr.)**	9	John Broussard Jr. (Sr.)
SS	41	Sanchez Blake Jr. (Jr.)	22	Tyrez Lindsey (Sr.)
FS	15	Quindell Johnson (So.)	**12**	**La'Andre Thomas (Jr.)**
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	36	Riley Patterson (Sr.)	**KR** 18	Gabriel Rogers (Jr.)
P	48	Adam Williams (Jr.)	**PR** 9	Pop Williams (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Brady White, 420-269-4,014-11, 33 TDs
Rushing: Kenneth Gainwell, 231 att., 1,459 yds., 13 TDs
Receiving: Damonte Coxie, 76 rec., 1,276 yds., 9 TDs
Tackles: Sanchez Blake Jr., Xavier Cullens, 69
Sacks: Joseph Dorceus, 5.0
Interceptions: Sanchez Blake Jr., Quindell Johnson, 2

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Ryan Silverfield
Record at School: 0-1 (interim coach in 2019)
Career Record: 0-1 (interim coach in 2019)
Offensive Coordinator: Kevin Johns
Defensive Coordinator: Mike MacIntyre
Memphis, TN • Liberty Bowl (58,325)

Memphis Athletics

NAVY Midshipmen

National Forecast: **71** · AAC Prediction: **7** · Projected Record: **6-6, 4-4 AAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Aug.	29	vs. Notre Dame #
Sept.	12	Lafayette
Sept.	19	at Tulane
Sept.	26	Temple
Oct.	3	at Air Force
Oct.	17	at East Carolina
Oct.	24	Houston
Oct.	31	at SMU
Nov.	7	Tulsa
Nov.	14	Memphis
Nov.	21	at USF
Dec.	12	vs. Army %

#Dublin, Ireland %Philadelphia

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 11-2, 7-1 AAC

Aug.	31	Holy Cross	W	45-7
Sept.	14	East Carolina	W	42-10
Sept.	27	at Memphis	L	23-35
Oct.	5	Air Force	W	34-25
Oct.	12	at Tulsa	W	45-17
Oct.	19	USF	W	35-3
Oct.	26	Tulane	W	41-38
Nov.	1	at Connecticut	W	56-10
Nov.	16	at Notre Dame	L	20-52
Nov.	23	SMU	W	35-28
Nov.	30	at Houston	W	56-41
Dec.	14	vs. Army #	W	31-7
Dec.	31	vs. Kansas State %	W	20-17

#Philadelphia %Liberty Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Pryson Greer, DT, Helotes, TX
2. Ralph Donaldson, S, Franklin, MI
3. Brycen Thomas, WR, High Point, NC
4. Anton Hall, RB, Miami, FL
5. Campbell Speights, RB, McAllen, TX
6. Jack Haglage, LB, Mason, OH
7. Keandre Harper, LB, Columbus, GA
8. Malachi Morris, WR, Columbus, GA
9. Aaron Swafford, QB, Decatur, TN
10. Logan Point, RB, Celina, TX

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	AAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	37.2 ppg	4	12
Rushing	360.5 ypg	1	1
Passing	95.2 ypg	12	128
Total	455.8 ypg	4	19
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	22.3 ppg	2	34
Rushing	105.8 ypg	1	10
Passing	208.3 ypg	4	38
Total	314.2 ypg	1	16
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
+6	+0.46	1	27

STAT CORNER

17.79%

Navy recorded an explosive play on 17.79 percent of its offensive snaps in 2019 (140 on runs and 16 on passes), the highest mark in the country.

OFFENSE Last season, Navy built its entire offense around the talents of Malcolm Perry, who established a Football Bowl Subdivision record for rushing yards by a quarterback with 2,017 yards. Perry is not easily replaced, and the cancellation of spring practice due to the coronavirus pandemic made that task more difficult. Perry Olsen is now the most experienced quarterback on the roster.

Navy does return a dangerous weapon in fullback Jamale Carothers. After playing games on the junior varsity, Carothers was promoted and soon took over the starting spot, finishing second on the squad in both rushing yards (734) and touchdowns (14).

Navy returns almost all its key skill players. Junior Mychal Cooper emerged as the go-to receiver in 2019 with 18 catches for 380 yards. Senior CJ Williams is the top slotback after totaling 298 rushing yards, 210 receiving yards and five touchdowns.

Right guard Peter Nestrowitz and right tackle Billy Honaker are the lone returning starters on the offensive line. Justin Self will be asked to replace fiery leader Ford Higgins at center.

DEFENSE Navy's defense lost only three starters to graduation, but then two other top performers entered the transfer portal. Perhaps the biggest loss comes at nose guard, where Jackson Pittman was a three-year starter and a dominant force as a senior. Senior Mike Flowers (6'3", 318) has the size and talent to do the job but must improve his stamina and consistency. He will be surrounded by a pair of proven performers in defensive tackle Jackson Perkins and left end J'arius Warren, both returning starters.

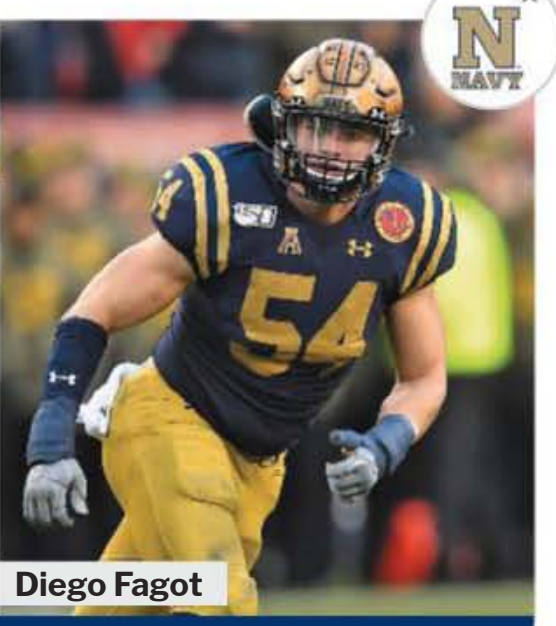
Inside linebacker Diego Fagot enjoyed a breakout season as a sophomore, leading Navy in total tackles (100), while ranking second in tackles for a loss (12) and sacks (5.5).

After initially entering the transfer portal, sophomore Chelen Garnes withdrew his name and will now be asked to replace Jacob Springer at the hybrid outside linebacker position known as "striker."

The Midshipmen boast a pair of talented safeties in Kevin Brennan and Evan Fochtman. Brennan finished second on the squad with 81 tackles and added two interceptions and four pass breakups. Fochtman recorded 53 tackles to go along with two interceptions and five pass breakups.

SPECIALISTS Bijan Nichols was outstanding as a freshman, finishing 12-of-17 on field goals and 61-of-62 on extra points. Nichols was a talented punter at Rockwall-Heath High in Texas and may need to fill that role as well in 2020 if Navy cannot find a suitable replacement for Owen White.

FINAL ANALYSIS Navy authored one of the finest single-season turnarounds in FBS history, going from 3–10 to 11–2. Head coach Ken Niumatalolo credited the team culture as crucial to the bounce-back campaign and was hoping to build on the momentum. Losing spring practice and summer workouts did not help, although the coach was impressed with the work ethic and leadership he saw during winter strength and conditioning workouts. Finding a QB who can operate the offense effectively with sound decision-making is the key for an offense that is loaded with talent at the skill positions. Nose guard and cornerback are the primary question marks for a defense that is otherwise very experienced.



Diego Fagot

"Thank goodness the quarterback is gone. They'll fall back this year. Also, we've seen some transfers out of the program, which is pretty strange for them."

— An opposing AAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)				
WR	**3**	**Mychal Cooper (Jr.)**	13	Chance Warren (Jr.)
WR	**87**	**Ryan Mitchell (Sr.)**	80	Mark Walker (So.)
LT	64	Kurt Stengel (Sr.)	54	Jackson Lee Mitchell (Jr.)
LG	67	Bryce Texeira (Jr.)	60	Mattie Conlon (Jr.)
C	79	Justin Self (Sr.)	75	Sean Rattay (Sr.)
RG	**73**	**Peter Nestrowitz (Sr.)**	65	Nick Bernacchi (Jr.)
RT	**71**	**Billy Honaker (Sr.)**	72	Luca Fratianne (Jr.)
QB	11	Perry Olsen (So.)	8	Dalen Morris (Sr.)
SB	28	Keoni-Kordell Makekau (Sr.)	23	Myles Fells (Sr.)
SB	**20**	**CJ Williams (Sr.)**	21	Tyreek King-El (Sr.)
RB	**34**	**Jamale Carothers (Jr.)**	**43**	**Nelson Smith (Sr.)**
DEFENSE (6)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	**94**	**J'arius Warren (Jr.)**	97	Antonio Greer (So.)
NT	98	Mike Flowers (Sr.)	99	Alefosio Saipaia (So.)
DT	**96**	**Jackson Perkins (Sr.)**	92	Deondrae Williams (Jr.)
OLB	55	John Kelly III (Jr.)	46	Tommy Lawley (Jr.)
MLB	**54**	**Diego Fagot (Jr.)**	50	Mitchell Johns (Jr.)
MLB	45	Tama Tuitele (So.)	31	Austin Talbert-Loving (Sr.)
OLB	4	Chelen Garnes (So.)	17	Tony Brown (Jr.)
CB	14	Micah Farrar (Sr.)	5	Caleb Clear (Jr.)
CB	**3**	**Cameron Kinley (Sr.)**	2	Marcus Wiggins (Sr.)
SS	**7**	**Kevin Brennan (Jr.)**	6	Mitchell West (Jr.)
FS	**11**	**Evan Fochtman (Sr.)**	36	Derek Atwaters (So.)
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	43	Bijan Nichols (So.)	**KR** 13	Chance Warren (Jr.)
P	39	Ben Fee (Jr.)	**PR** 26	Garrett Winn (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: CJ Williams, 4-3-90-0, 1 TD
Rushing: Jamale Carothers, 111 att., 734 yds., 14 TDs
Receiving: Mychal Cooper, 18 rec., 380 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Diego Fagot, 100
Sacks: Diego Fagot, 5.5
Interceptions: 3 tied with 2

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Ken Niumatalolo
Record at School: 98-60 (12+ years)
Career Record: 98-60 (12+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Ivin Jasper
Defensive Coordinator: Brian Newberry
Annapolis, MD • Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium (34,000)

Phil Hoffmann

SMU Mustangs

National Forecast: **53** · AAC Prediction: **4** · Projected Record: **8-4, 5-3 AAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at Texas State
Sept.	12	Stephen F. Austin
Sept.	19	at North Texas
Sept.	26	TCU
Oct.	1	Memphis
Oct.	17	at Tulane
Oct.	24	Cincinnati
Oct.	31	Navy
Nov.	5	at Temple
Nov.	14	at Tulsa
Nov.	21	Houston
Nov.	28	at East Carolina

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 10-3, 6-2 AAC

Aug.	31	at Arkansas State		W	37-30
Sept.	7	North Texas		W	49-27
Sept.	14	Texas State		W	47-17
Sept.	21	at TCU		W	41-38
Sept.	28	at USF		W	48-21
Oct.	5	Tulsa	(ot)	W	43-37
Oct.	19	Temple		W	45-21
Oct.	24	at Houston		W	34-31
Nov.	2	at Memphis		L	48-54
Nov.	9	East Carolina		W	59-51
Nov.	23	at Navy		L	28-35
Nov.	30	Tulane		W	37-20
Dec.	21	at Florida Atlantic #		L	28-52

#Boca Raton Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Danny Gray, WR, Dallas, TX*
2. Thad Johnson, WR, Beaumont, TX
3. DeVere Levelston, DE, DeSoto, TX*
4. Erin Smith, OT, North Little Rock, AR
5. Karl Taylor, S, Midland, TX
6. Ben Sparks, OG, Norman, OK
7. Demetri Jordan, OG, Lubbock, TX*
8. Junior Aho, DE, Nice, France*
9. Dalton Perdue, OT, El Dorado, AR
10. Jay Bell, LB, Beaumont, TX

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	AAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	41.8 ppg	2	7
Rushing	180.8 ypg	7	43
Passing	309.0 ypg	2	13
Total	489.8 ypg	2	9
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	33.4 ppg	9	109
Rushing	156.4 ypg	5	63
Passing	288.6 ypg	12	125
Total	445.0 ypg	9	107
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
+4	+0.31	5	40

STAT CORNER

14.81

SMU ran an average of 14.81 offensive plays between touchdowns in 2019, which ranked third in the AAC and ninth in the country.

OFFENSE After quarterback Shane Buechele threw for 3,929 yards and 34 touchdowns last season, SMU will simplify its high-scoring offense to give him more options. A faster pace with more quick slants and crossing patterns could enhance Buechele's decision-making and open the field to explosive plays.

The Mustangs have been cautious not to overwork their most dangerous playmaker, wide receiver Reggie Roberson Jr. The West Virginia transfer, who averaged 18.7 yards per catch before suffering a season-ending foot injury in the eighth game last year, will take on more responsibility to fill James Proche's shoes. Flex tight end Kylen Granson became a major threat, particularly after Roberson went down, finishing with 43 receptions for 721 yards and nine touchdowns.

A deep group of talented young wideouts will provide diverse targets for Buechele. But with the loss of Xavier Jones and Ke'Mon Freeman to graduation, the Mustangs need an inexperienced running back to become a legitimate threat. TJ McDaniel seems the most likely. He got the most opportunities as a freshman last season, rushing for 159 yards and three touchdowns against Texas State.

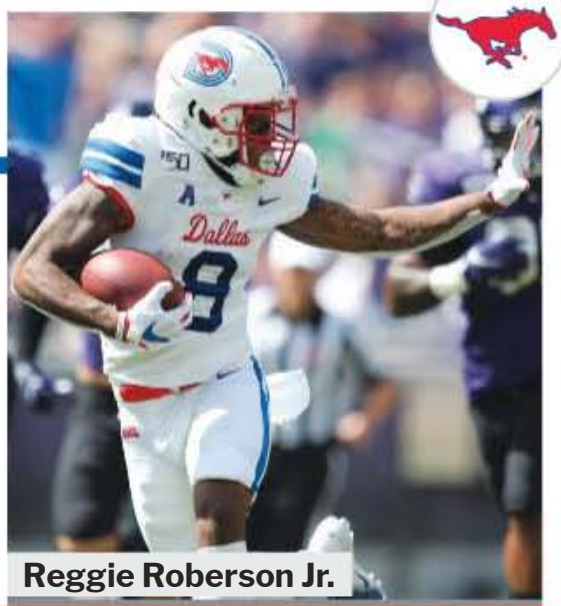
DEFENSE SMU's depth will be tested, especially up front. The Mustangs return ends Gary Wiley and Turner Coxe, but replacing key graduated players will be critical. Filling holes via the transfer portal has at least deepened the talent pool with experienced players. Linebacker Richard McBryde, an Auburn transfer, was granted a sixth year of eligibility after posting a team-high 99 tackles (with four sacks) last year. Cornerback Brandon Stephens, a UCLA transfer, led SMU with 12 passes defended, and Arkansas transfer Chevin Calloway will compete for a starting safety job after playing 11 games last year.

The Mustangs may also see the return of their leading tackler from 2018, linebacker Richard Moore, who was limited to three games last year because of injury. Tackle Mike Williams, a graduate transfer from Stanford, started every game for the Cardinal the past two years and is a potential leader for the young linemen who are competing for playing time.

SPECIALISTS The Mustangs did not make a field goal longer than 38 yards and missed seven PATs and three field-goal attempts inside 30 yards. Although head coach Sonny Dykes says he expects to land a transfer, sophomore Russell Roberts is the leading candidate to handle kicking duties until then. He had only two field-goal attempts as a freshman last season, making one.

FINAL ANALYSIS Expectations are high after the Mustangs got a taste of national acclaim last year. Dykes has done a masterful job of getting immediate help from transfers and creating an exciting offense. SMU ranked seventh nationally in scoring (41.8 ppg) last season. The aggressive defense ranked fourth nationally in sacks and fifth in fumbles recovered.

Sustaining momentum from that 10-win season will be critical. Despite some significant personnel losses, the Mustangs have the talent to contend for the AAC title. The schedule should help the Mustangs get things in order early with only two road games in the first five games. Their toughest games — TCU, Memphis, Cincinnati, Navy and Houston — are at home.



Reggie Roberson Jr.

"Returning the QB goes a long way to sustaining the success.... But the defense wasn't really stellar, and they lost some guys."

— An opposing AAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)				
WR	**8**	**Reggie Roberson Jr. (Sr.)**	13	Judah Bell (So.)
WR	11	Rashee Rice (So.)	16	Keke Burns (Fr.)
WR	15	Calvin Wiggins (Fr.)	1	Danny Gray (Jr.)
LT	**71**	**Jaylon Thomas (Jr.)**	79	Danielson Ike (Fr.)
LG	**75**	**Hayden Howerton (Sr.)**	65	Thomas Shelmire (Fr.)
C	**77**	**Alan Ali (Jr.)**	70	Kadarius Smith (Sr.)
RG	57	Cobe Bryant (Sr.)	59	Tai Brooks (Fr.)
RT	**78**	**Beau Morris (Sr.)**	72	Demetri Jordan (Jr.)
TE	**83**	**Kylen Granson (Sr.)**	44	Kedrick James (Jr.)
QB	**7**	**Shane Buechele (Sr.)**	10	Terrance Gipson (Fr.)
RB	25	TJ McDaniel (So.)	26	Ulysses Bentley IV (Fr.)
DEFENSE (6)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	55	Gary Wiley (Jr.)	38	Toby Ndukwe (Jr.)
NT	91	Terrance Newman (Jr.)	95	Will Jones (Sr.)
DT	93	Elijah Chatman (So.)	57	Mike Williams (Sr.)
DE	**97**	**Turner Coxe (Jr.)**	96	DeVere Levelston (So.)
OLB	**3**	**Delano Robinson (Sr.)**	9	Shaine Hailey (Sr.)
MLB	**50**	**Richard McBryde (Sr.)**	41	Preston Ellison (Jr.)
OLB	**16**	**Trevor Denbow (Sr.)**	24	Jimmy Phillips Jr. (Jr.)
CB	**26**	**Brandon Stephens (Sr.)**	1	Eric Sutton (Sr.)
CB	**5**	**Ar'mani Johnson (Jr.)**	29	Justin Guy-Robinson (Jr.)
S	11	Chevin Calloway (Jr.)	21	Donald Clay (Fr.)
S	18	Chace Cromartie (So.)	13	Roderick Roberson Jr. (Fr.)
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	97	Russell Roberts (So.)	**KR** 4	Tyler Page (Sr.)
P	16	Trevor Denbow (Sr.)	**PR** 1	Danny Gray (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Shane Buechele, 490-307-3,929-10, 34 TDs
Rushing: TJ McDaniel, 41 att., 236 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Reggie Roberson Jr., 43 rec., 803 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Richard McBryde, 99
Sacks: Richard McBryde, 4.0
Interceptions: Ar'mani Johnson, 2

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Sonny Dykes
Record at School: 15-11 (2+ year)
Career Record: 56-56 (9+ years)
Offensive Coordinators: A.J. Ricker, Garrett Riley
Defensive Coordinator: Kevin Kane
Dallas, TX • Gerald J. Ford Stadium (32,000)

SMU Athletics

TEMPLE Owls

National Forecast: **81** · AAC Prediction: **8** · Projected Record: **6-6, 3-5 AAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at Miami
Sept.	12	Idaho
Sept.	19	Rutgers
Sept.	26	at Navy
Oct.	10	at Massachusetts
Oct.	17	USF
Oct.	24	at Memphis
Oct.	31	at Tulane
Nov.	5	SMU
Nov.	14	at UCF
Nov.	21	East Carolina
Nov.	28	Cincinnati

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5, 5-3 AAC

Aug.	31	Bucknell	W	56-12
Sept.	14	Maryland	W	20-17
Sept.	21	at Buffalo	L	22-38
Sept.	28	Georgia Tech	W	24-2
Oct.	4	at East Carolina	W	27-17
Oct.	12	Memphis	W	30-28
Oct.	19	at SMU	L	21-45
Oct.	26	UCF	L	21-63
Nov.	7	at USF	W	17-7
Nov.	16	Tulane	W	29-21
Nov.	23	at Cincinnati	L	13-15
Nov.	30	Connecticut	W	49-17
Dec.	27	vs. North Carolina #	L	13-55

#Military Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kobe Wilson, LB, Lilburn, GA
2. Sam Davis, OG, Geneva, OH
3. Darian Varner, DT, Norfolk, VA
4. Miles Zietek, OT, Darmstadt, Ger.
5. Matt Duncan, QB, Summerville, SC
6. Nick Bags, DT, Staten Island, NY
7. D.J. Woodbury, S, Burlington, NJ
8. Zae Baines, WR, Roanoke, VA
9. Trey Blair, ATH, Havertown, PA
10. Bryce Thoman, OG, Harrisburg, PA

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	AAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	26.3 ppg	10	86
Rushing	137.2 ypg	11	98
Passing	254.8 ypg	6	45
Total	392.0 ypg	8	77
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	25.9 ppg	4	50
Rushing	158.9 ypg	6	68
Passing	218.9 ypg	6	50
Total	377.8 ypg	5	54
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
0	0.00	7	61

STAT CORNER

70.0%

The Owls allowed 28 TDs and seven field goals in 50 red zone opportunities last year — a 70.0 percent scoring rate that ranked second in the AAC.

OFFENSE Anthony Russo is back for his third season as Temple's starting quarterback. He's gone 15–8 as the starter, and he became the first Owl to throw for 400 yards in a game twice. But, like the team as a whole, he needs to show more consistency.

Russo has weapons at his disposal. Jadan Blue set school records a year ago with 95 receptions for 1,067 yards. Branden Mack had seven touchdown catches. Re'Mahn Davis, a mid-year enrollee who missed spring camp, rushed for nearly 1,000 yards and posted eight scores. Given the losses on defense, this unit might have to carry things early on.

The Owls do need to replace bodies up front, particularly center Matt Hennessy, a Rimington Trophy finalist. They think there are enough capable candidates. Adam Klein and Vincent Picozzi bring the most experience. Michael Niese, a graduate transfer from Dayton, could provide immediate help. But the line could start out as a work in progress.

DEFENSE This was the strength of the team for much of last year. But most of the unit has to be replaced, including four of the five ends in the Owls' rotation. That includes AAC Defensive Player of the Year Quincy Roche, now a grad transfer at Miami (headed up by ex-Owls coach Manny Diaz), where Temple will open the season. Arnold Ebiketie is the lone returnee at end, with Manny Walker joining as a grad transfer from Wake Forest. Some linebackers have been moved to become part of a committee.

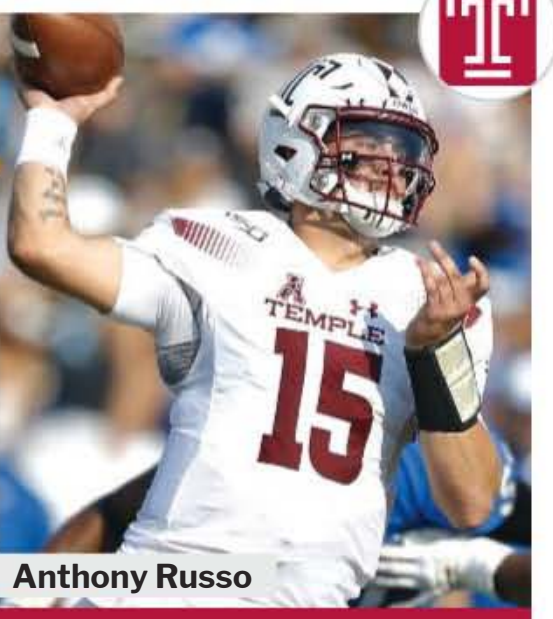
The top four defensive tackles are back, and early-enrollee freshmen Nick Bags could emerge quickly. But three first-string linebackers are gone. Two went to the NFL Scouting Combine. Isaiah Graham-Mobley, who wears one of the program's coveted single-digit jerseys, and William Kwenkeu, who redshirted in 2019, are considered worthy successors.

There's depth at cornerback, where two fifth-year players redshirted last year. Amir Tyler is back at safety, along with DaeSean Winston and M.J. Griffin.

A couple of newcomers could have an instant impact: freshman linebacker Kobe Wilson and transfer Kwantel Raines (S, from West Virginia), who needs an NCAA waiver.

SPECIALISTS Will Mobley missed his first regular-season field goal a year ago, and his last. In between he converted 11 in a row. Punter Adam Barry has a strong leg but was a little inconsistent. The departed Isaiah Wright was a big-time return threat. That responsibility will now likely fall on Blue.

FINAL ANALYSIS In January 2019, Rod Carey came over from Northern Illinois when Diaz went back to Miami after just a few weeks in North Philly. Carey became Temple's fourth coach in 25 months. His Owls went 8–5 for the second straight year, and for the second straight season the year ended with a lopsided bowl loss to an ACC opponent. The conference schedule is similar, except they'll get 11-win Navy instead of 10-loss Connecticut. The non-league portion has Miami, Idaho, Massachusetts and Rutgers, and the Owls travel to Memphis and UCF. There's reason to believe that Temple can make a bowl game for the sixth straight season, a major achievement for a program that made only four bowl appearances in its entire previous history (1930-2014). Anything less is an obvious move in the wrong direction.



Anthony Russo

"One week they can come out and beat you hard-nosed, the next week they're sloppy in trying to outrun teams like UCF. You can't do that."

— An opposing AAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**1**	**Branden Mack (Sr.)**	10	Jose Barbon (So.)
WR	**18**	**Jadan Blue (Jr.)**	12	Kadas Reams (So.)
WR	7	Randle Jones (Sr.)	83	Kwesi Evans (Fr.)
LT	**63**	**Isaac Moore (Jr.)**	78	Victor Stoffel (Fr.)
LG	**76**	**Vincent Picozzi (Sr.)**	72	J.D. Gomez (Jr.)
C	51	Griffin Sestili (Jr.)	66	Leon Pinto (Sr.)
RG	52	Joseph Hooper (Sr.)		Michael Niese (Sr.)
RT	**74**	**Adam Klein (Jr.)**	67	David Nwaogwugwu (So.)
TE	**82**	**David Martin-Robinson (So.)**	86	Aaron Jarman (So.)
QB	**15**	**Anthony Russo (Sr.)**	11	Trad Beatty (So.)
RB	**20**	**Re'Mahn Davis (So.)**	29	Tayvon Ruley (Sr.)

DEFENSE (4) — Returning Starters in Bold

DE	47	Arnold Ebiketie (Jr.)		Manny Walker (Sr.)
DT	**6**	**Daniel Archibong (Sr.)**	98	Kevin Robertson (Sr.)
DT	**88**	**Ifeanyi Maijeh (Jr.)**	56	Khris Banks (So.)
DE	46	Layton Jordan (So.)	44	Travon King (So.)
OLB	8	Isaiah Graham-Mobley (Sr.)	31	Yvandy Rigby (Fr.)
MLB	35	William Kwenkeu (Sr.)	30	Audley Isaacs (Jr.)
OLB	34	Thomas Joe-Kamara (Fr.)	39	George Reid (Jr.)
CB	**14**	**Christian Braswell (Jr.)**	24	Kimere Brown (Sr.)
CB	11	Linwood Crump (Sr.)	21	Freddie Johnson (Sr.)
SS	**25**	**Amir Tyler (Sr.)**	28	M.J. Griffin (Fr.)
FS	16	DaeSean Winston (Jr.)	20	Keyvone Bruton (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	91	Will Mobley (Jr.)	**KR**	18	Jadan Blue (Jr.)
P	49	Adam Barry (Jr.)	**PR**	18	Jadan Blue (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Anthony Russo, 419-246-2,861-12, 21 TDs
Rushing: Re'Mahn Davis, 193 att., 936 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Jadan Blue, 95 rec., 1,067 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Amir Tyler, 54
Sacks: Ifeanyi Maijeh, 6.5
Interceptions: Christian Braswell, 1

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Rod Carey
Record at School: 8-5 (1 year)
Career Record: 60-35 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Uremovich
Defensive Coordinator: Jeff Knowles
Philadelphia, PA • Lincoln Financial Field (68,532)

Zamani Feelings/Temple Football

TULANE Green Wave

National Forecast: **69** · AAC Prediction: **5** · Projected Record: **6-6, 4-4 AAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3	SE Louisiana
Sept.	12	at Northwestern
Sept.	19	Navy
Sept.	26	at Mississippi State
Oct.	8	at Houston
Oct.	17	SMU
Oct.	24	at UCF
Oct.	31	Temple
Nov.	7	at East Carolina
Nov.	14	Army
Nov.	21	at Tulsa
Nov.	28	Memphis

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 7-6, 3-5 AAC

Aug.	30	FIU	W	42-14
Sept.	7	at Auburn	L	6-24
Sept.	14	Missouri State	W	58-6
Sept.	20	Houston	W	38-31
Oct.	5	at Army	W	42-33
Oct.	12	Connecticut	W	49-7
Oct.	19	at Memphis	L	17-47
Oct.	26	at Navy	L	38-41
Nov.	2	Tulsa	W	38-26
Nov.	16	at Temple	L	21-29
Nov.	23	UCF	L	31-34
Nov.	30	at SMU	L	20-37
Jan.	4	vs. Southern Miss #	W	30-13

#Armed Forces Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Angelo Anderson, DE, New Orleans, LA
2. Josh Remetich, OG, New Orleans, LA
3. Rashad Green, OG, Baton Rouge, LA
4. Jesus Machado, LB, Hialeah, FL
5. Adonis Friloux, DT, Boutte, LA
6. Brandon Brown, DT, Katy, TX
7. Michael Pratt, QB, Deerfield Beach, FL
8. Cornelius Dyson, ATH, Kentwood, LA
9. Noah Taliancich, DE, Destrehan, LA
10. Kevaris Hall, CB, Red Oak, TX

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	AAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	33.1 ppg	5	30
Rushing	243.2 ypg	2	11
Passing	206.1 ypg	8	89
Total	449.3 ypg	5	22
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	26.3 ppg	5	56
Rushing	156.3 ypg	4	62
Passing	220.7 ypg	7	54
Total	377.0 ypg	4	51
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
-2	-0.15	10	78

STAT CORNER

257.5

Without subtracting sacks from rushing totals (like in the NFL), Tulane averaged 257.5 rushing yards per game in 2019.

OFFENSE Despite inconsistency from Justin McMillan, Tulane averaged the third-most yards (449.3) and third-most points (33.1) in school history during new offensive coordinator Will Hall's sterling debut. To build on those impressive numbers — or at least not go backward — the Green Wave need reliable play from returning quarterback Keon Howard or a graduate transfer. Howard, a senior, has the running skills to approach McMillan's program-record 745 rushing yards and 12 touchdowns for a quarterback, but he must take care of the ball better than he did in two turnover-prone years at Southern Miss, where he was benched three times. His accuracy is unproven, too.

The Wave lost receivers Darnell Mooney (48 catches, 713 yards) and Jalen McCleskey (37 catches, 581 yards), but sophomore Jha'Quan Jackson emerged as a playmaker in five spring practices along with former four-star recruit Mykel Jones, a grad transfer from Oklahoma.

A loaded backfield, which has five legitimate candidates to be the leading rusher, became even deeper when breakaway threat Corey Dauphine (575 yards, 8.0 average per carry) was granted a sixth year of eligibility. Redshirt freshman Tyjae Spears may be the most complete back on the roster. Amare Jones (371 rushing yards, 367 receiving yards) could excel in a slotback role Hall designed specifically for him.

Four-year starter Corey Dublin leads a line that will have new starters at center and right tackle.

DEFENSE A disappointing front that was supposed to be as good or better than any D-line in the AAC contributed to Tulane's 1–5 slide after a 5–1 start. Outside linebacker Patrick Johnson, who had 10.5 sacks in 2018, managed just four while playing through a labrum tear. All of the line starters return along with some key backups as the Wave look to return to form. The all-upperclassman front of Johnson, fellow senior Cameron Sample, De'Andre Williams and big nose tackle Jeffery Johnson will be formidable if they play to their potential.

The linebackers go four deep with Oklahoma State grad transfer Kevin Henry and promising freshman Jesus Machado joining Marvin Moody and Nick Anderson, a force in the Wave's bowl win.

Strong safety Larry Brooks, who had a team-high four interceptions despite starting only one game, is poised for a breakout year. He and free safety Chase Kuerschen have complementary skill sets.

SPECIALISTS The kicking game has improved in each of head coach Willie Fritz's four years. Merek Glover hit 13-of-17 field goals in 2019. Punter Ryan Wright has the leg to improve on his 41.4-yard average. Jones is a threat on returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS Although Tulane has won bowl games in consecutive seasons for the first time, Fritz expected a better performance than a repeat of 2018's 7–6 record. After tying for first in the AAC West a year earlier, the Wave slipped to 3–5, losing to all five bowl-bound teams they faced in league play. Penalties were a huge problem, with Tulane ranking 123rd out of 130 FBS teams in an un-Fritz-like performance.

Having lifted the program to respectability, Fritz wants to contend for conference championships. The talent for improvement is there. Still, the Wave could regress without the right quarterback.

Corey Dauphine

"This is a team that could look the same and go 4–8 or 8–4. This is the prove-it year in terms of consistency. Make sure last year wasn't a fluke."

— An opposing AAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (4)

WR	4	Jha'Quan Jackson (So.)	82	Jaetavian Toles (Sr.)
WR	1	Mykel Jones (Sr.)	3	Phat Watts (Jr.)
LT	**79**	**Joey Claybrook (Jr.)**	66	Nik Hogan (So.)
LG	**64**	**Corey Dublin (Sr.)**	76	Michael Remondet (So.)
C	52	Sincere Haynesworth (So.)	51	Stephen Lewerenz (So.)
RG	**65**	**Ben Knutson (Sr.)**		Rashad Green (Fr.)
RT	63	Cameron Jackel (Jr.)		Trey Tuggle (Fr.)
TE	80	Tyrick James (Jr.)	**84**	**Will Wallace (Jr.)**
QB	9	Keon Howard (Sr.)	7	Michael Pratt (Fr.)
SB	11	Amare Jones (Jr.)	27	Ygenio Booker (So.)
RB	6	Corey Dauphine (Sr.)	22	Tyjae Spears (Fr.)

DEFENSE (7) Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**5**	**Cameron Sample (Sr.)**	99	Alfred Thomas (Jr.)
NT	**77**	**Jeffery Johnson (Jr.)**		Adonis Friloux (Fr.)
DT	**48**	**De'Andre Williams (Sr)**	90	Davon Wright (Jr.)
OLB	**7**	**Patrick Johnson (Sr.)**	54	Carlos Hatcher (So.)
MLB	**28**	**Marvin Moody (Sr.)**	35	Jesus Machado (Fr.)
MLB	40	Nick Anderson (Jr.)	33	Kevin Henry (Sr.)
CB	**9**	**Jaylon Monroe (Sr.)**	16	Levi Williams (Fr.)
CB	19	Kiland Harrison (Fr.)	21	Chris Joyce (Jr.)
NB	37	Macon Clark (Jr.)	8	Willie Langham (Jr.)
S	31	Larry Brooks (Jr.)	23	Tyler Judson (Fr.)
S	**36**	**Chase Kuerschen (Sr.)**	12	Ton'Quez Ball (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	62	Merek Glover (Sr.)	**KR**	11	Amare Jones (Jr.)
P	97	Ryan Wright (Jr.)	**PR**	11	Amare Jones (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Keon Howard, 18-13-208-0, 2 TDs
Rushing: Corey Dauphine, 72 att., 575 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving: Amare Jones, 34 rec., 367 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Chase Kuerschen, 76
Sacks: Patrick Johnson, 4.0
Interceptions: Larry Brooks, 4

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Willie Fritz
Record at School: 23-27 (4 years)
Career Record: 177-96 (23 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Will Hall
Defensive Coordinator: Jack Curtis
New Orleans, LA • Yulman Stadium (30,000)

Parker Waters

TULSA Golden Hurricane

National Forecast: **87** · AAC Prediction: **9** · Projected Record: **5-7, 2-6 AAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Toledo
Sept.	12	at Oklahoma State
Sept.	19	Northwestern State
Sept.	26	at Arkansas State
Oct.	3	at UCF
Oct.	17	Cincinnati
Oct.	23	at USF
Oct.	30	East Carolina
Nov.	7	at Navy
Nov.	14	SMU
Nov.	21	Tulane
Nov.	28	at Houston

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 4-8, 2-6 AAC

Aug.	30	at Michigan State	L	7-28
Sept.	7	at San Jose State	W	34-16
Sept.	14	Oklahoma State	L	21-40
Sept.	21	Wyoming	W	24-21
Oct.	5	at SMU (ot)	L	37-43
Oct.	12	Navy	L	17-45
Oct.	19	at Cincinnati	L	13-24
Oct.	26	Memphis	L	41-42
Nov.	2	at Tulane	L	26-38
Nov.	8	UCF	W	34-31
Nov.	23	Houston	L	14-24
Nov.	30	at East Carolina	W	49-24

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jacob Kainer, TE, Cypress, TX*
2. Everitt Rogers, DT, Killeen, TX
3. LJ Wallace, S, Atwater, CA*
4. Sean O'Keefe, ATH, San Saba, TX
5. Tyquez Hampton, WR, El Paso, TX*
6. Jalen Paxton, WR, Manvel, TX
7. Roman Fuller, QB, Decatur, TX
8. Malachai Jones, WR, Houston, TX
9. Deante Betts, LB, Arlington, TX
10. Bayne Tryon, TE, Cypress, TX

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	AAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	26.4 ppg	9	84
Rushing	138.3 ypg	10	95
Passing	281.3 ypg	5	30
Total	419.7 ypg	7	53
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	31.3 ppg	8	92
Rushing	185.1 ypg	8	90
Passing	209.7 ypg	5	42
Total	394.8 ypg	7	70
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
-1	-0.08	9	75

STAT CORNER

70.6

Tulsa defended an average of 70.6 pass attempts between interceptions — the widest gap in the AAC and worse than all but eight other units.

OFFENSE With Baylor transfer Zach Smith taking over at quarterback last year, the Golden Hurricane increased their passing production from 2018 by more than 100 yards per game, showing flashes of the type of high-octane offense that defined Philip Montgomery's first two seasons at Tulsa. Smith was typically on the money when given enough time to throw, but he also was sacked 39 times as a result of inadequate protection.

Smith and most of his primary targets are back, led by playmakers Keylon Stokes and Sam Crawford Jr., who combined for 1,817 yards and 11 touchdowns last year. Josh Johnson and JuanCarlos Santana also should be key contributors to the receiving corps.

On the heels of a 1,000-yard campaign, running back Shamari Brooks is primed for more behind an upgraded offensive line that endured significant growing pains and underwent reshuffling in the spring. Brooks and fellow senior back Corey Taylor II are Tulsa natives who have totaled 45 touchdowns in their careers, and underclassmen TK Wilkerson and Christian Lovick complete the rotation.

DEFENSE While the offense returns almost everyone, the defense has to replace the majority of its starters from a unit that was the team's strength in the last two seasons. Despite huge holes to fill, a total of 11 returning defensive players have made at least one career start, earning playing time amid injuries and creating depth out of necessity.

A linebacker group headlined by top returning tackler Zaven Collins will anchor the defense, and fourth-year cornerbacks Allie Green IV and Akayleb Evans bring vast experience to the secondary.

The three-man defensive front will feature Cullen Wick at defensive end, where Trevis Gipson starred as a senior last year. Jaxon Player, who had seven tackles for lost yardage in 2019, will compete with Tyarise Stevenson at nose guard.

The Hurricane are less battle-tested at safety, where backups TieNeal Martin and Kendarin Ray are expected to move into the starting lineup. After his career seemingly ended during the 2018 season because of a spinal cyst, nickel back Cristian Williams was cleared to return to football last year and ranked fifth on the team with 57 tackles.

SPECIALISTS Short-range misses led to heartbreaking losses against ranked SMU and Memphis teams last season. Walk-on Zack Long, who handled kickoff duties as a junior, has the apparent leg up on the competition, which includes scholarship freshman Tyler Tipton.

Australia native Lachlan Wilson is projected at punter. Stokes, the most dynamic player on the team, again will be used on punt and kick returns after reaching 1,500 all-purpose yards last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS An overambitious schedule proved too much for Tulsa in 2019, but being competitive against obviously better teams — five of the six league losses were by an average of eight points — ultimately helped Montgomery hold on to his job despite recording only nine wins since 2017. The Hurricane also finished strong, picking up two of their four victories in November. This year brings a more feasible slate that includes nonconference opponents Toledo, Oklahoma State, Northwestern State and Arkansas State. None won more than eight games last season.

Shamari Brooks

Brett Rojo

"They won't be much different this year. Last season was the potential for a breakout year. This is becoming a tougher and tougher job in this league."

— An opposing AAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (9)				
WR	**9**	**Sam Crawford Jr. (Jr.)**	25	Dhailon Phillips (Jr.)
WR	5	JuanCarlos Santana (Jr.)	1	Josh Stewart (Sr.)
WR	**2**	**Keylon Stokes (Sr.)**	13	Josh Johnson (Jr.)
LT	56	Tyler Smith (Fr.)	52	James Middleton (Jr.)
LG	**78**	**X'Zauvea Gadlin (So.)**	68	Tiller Bucktrot (Sr.)
C	**66**	**Gerard Wheeler (Jr.)**	73	Dylan Couch (Sr.)
RG	73	Dylan Couch (Sr.)	**75**	**Dante Bivens (Jr.)**
RT	**71**	**Chris Paul (Jr.)**	74	Jeremy Jones (Fr.)
TE	**32**	**James Palmer (So.)**	38	Abe Anderson (Jr.)
QB	**11**	**Zach Smith (Sr.)**	12	Seth Boomer (Jr.)
RB	**3**	**Shamari Brooks (Sr.)**	24	Corey Taylor II (Sr.)

DEFENSE (3)				Returning Starters in Bold
DE	91	Cullen Wick (Sr.)	58	Deven Lamp (Jr.)
NG	**90**	**Jaxon Player (Jr.)**	97	Tyarise Stevenson (Sr.)
DT	94	Anthony Goodlow (So.)	88	RaQuan Thompson (Fr.)
OLB	11	Treyvon Reeves (Sr.)	19	Grant Sawyer (Jr.)
MLB	35	Yohance Burnett (Sr.)	30	Justin Wright (So.)
OLB	**23**	**Zaven Collins (Jr.)**	4	Robert Revels III (Sr.)
CB	**12**	**Allie Green IV (Sr.)**	18	Tyon Davis (Jr.)
CB	26	Akayleb Evans (Jr.)	29	Ryan Nixon (So.)
NB	3	Cristian Williams (Sr.)	21	Bryson Powers (Jr.)
SS	20	Kendarin Ray (So.)	25	Jaise Oliver (Fr.)
FS	7	TieNeal Martin (Sr.)	13	Lamar Mullins (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	90	Zack Long (Sr.)	KR	2	Keylon Stokes (Sr.)
P	37	Lachlan Wilson (Fr.)	PR	2	Keylon Stokes (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Zach Smith, 429-246-3,279-9, 19 TDs
Rushing: Shamari Brooks, 227 att., 1,046 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Keylon Stokes, 62 rec., 1,040 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Zaven Collins, 97
Sacks: Zaven Collins, 2.0
Interceptions: Cristian Williams, 1

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Philip Montgomery
Record at School: 25-37 (5 years)
Career Record: 25-37 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Philip Montgomery
Defensive Coordinator: Joseph Gillespie
Tulsa, OK • H.A. Chapman Stadium (30,000)

UCF Knights

National Forecast: **22** · AAC Prediction: **2** · Projected Record: **10-3, 7-1 AAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	North Carolina
Sept.	12	FIU
Sept.	18	at Georgia Tech
Sept.	24	at East Carolina
Oct.	3	Tulsa
Oct.	16	at Memphis
Oct.	24	Tulane
Oct.	31	at Houston
Nov.	7	Florida A&M
Nov.	14	Temple
Nov.	21	Cincinnati
Nov.	27	at USF

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 10-3, 6-2 AAC

Aug.	29	Florida A&M	W	62-0
Sept.	7	at Florida Atlantic	W	48-14
Sept.	14	Stanford	W	45-27
Sept.	21	at Pittsburgh	L	34-35
Sept.	28	Connecticut	W	56-21
Oct.	5	at Cincinnati	L	24-27
Oct.	19	East Carolina	W	41-28
Oct.	26	at Temple	W	63-21
Nov.	2	Houston	W	44-29
Nov.	8	at Tulsa	L	31-34
Nov.	23	at Tulane	W	34-31
Nov.	29	USF	W	34-7
Dec.	23	vs. Marshall #	W	48-25

#Gasparilla Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Ja'Cyais Credle, WR, Columbus, GA
2. Paul Rubelt, OT, Berlin, Ger.
3. Zach Marsh-Wojan, TE, Vacaville, CA*
4. Cornelius Forrest Jr., TE, Jacksonville, FL
5. Kendrick Wilson, DE, Miami, FL
6. Johnny Richardson, RB, Lake Wales, FL
7. Parker Navarro, QB, Phoenix, AZ
8. Devunte Dawson, CB, Hurst, TX*
9. Quade Mosier, LB, Fayetteville, AR
10. Mike Lofton, OG, Clearwater, FL

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	AAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	43.4 ppg	1	5
Rushing	223.8 ypg	3	19
Passing	316.7 ypg	1	8
Total	540.5 ypg	1	2
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	23.0 ppg	3	41
Rushing	146.6 ypg	3	53
Passing	199.5 ypg	3	26
Total	346.1 ypg	2	32
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
+6	+0.46	1	27

STAT CORNER

205

The Knights recorded 205 havoc plays (INT, pass break-ups, tackles for a loss, forced fumbles), which led the AAC and ranked second nationally.

OFFENSE As the Knights faced quarterback uncertainty following McKenzie Milton's serious leg injury at the end of 2018, it was freshman Dillon Gabriel who answered the call. The Hawaii native had one of the best seasons nationally for a freshman, passing for 3,653 yards, 29 touchdowns and just seven interceptions. For an offense that finished second nationally in total offense (540.5 yards) and fifth in scoring (43.4), Gabriel headlines an experienced group that should be able to keep things rolling in 2020.

Running back is a three-deep unit featuring Otis Anderson, Greg McCrae and Bentavious Thompson, all of whom possess significant experience. Anderson, who led the Knights with 726 rushing yards last season, will also see action at slot receiver.

The biggest question is who will step up as the go-to wide receiver in the wake of Gabriel Davis' decision to leave early for the NFL. The most likely candidate is Tre Nixon, who was second to Davis in receiving yards (830) and touchdowns (seven). Big seasons are also expected from Marlon Williams (second on the team in receptions in 2019) and Jacob Harris, a big 6'5" target. Jaylon Robinson, eligible after transferring from Oklahoma, has wowed with his speed and athleticism.

The offensive line brings back three of five starters, led by experienced guards Cole Schneider and Samuel Jackson. Marcus Tatum, a graduate transfer from Tennessee, likely will fill a tackle spot.

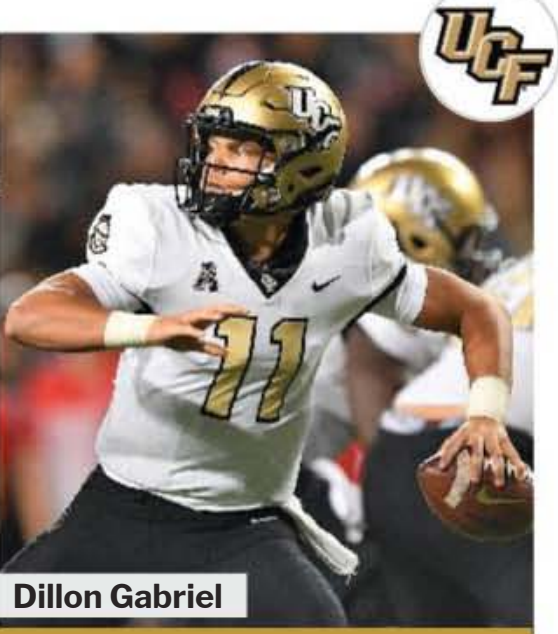
DEFENSE UCF's secondary is poised to be its strongest unit with four of five starters returning. That group includes nickel back Aaron Robinson, arguably the team's top defensive performer last season, along with safety starters Richie Grant and Antwan Collier and cornerback Tay Gowan. While cornerback Nevelle Clarke graduated, the hope is former starter Brandon Moore can return after missing nearly all of last season with a knee injury.

The defensive line was largely unproven going into 2019, but a big rotation of younger players means UCF has some promising depth. Players to watch include ends Randy Charlton and Tre'mon Morris-Brash, while Kenny Turnier and Kalia Davis form a solid 1-2 punch inside. Last season, Turnier led the team in tackles for a loss with 13.5.

Eric Mitchell and Eriq Gilyard top the linebacker rotation, as the duo tied for third in tackles (77) last season. Tatum Bethune and Jeremiah Jean-Baptiste provide depth after promising freshman seasons.

SPECIALISTS Both punter Andrew Osteen and long snapper Alex Ward return after successful starting debuts in 2019. Field-goal kicker is an open job, and it's likely that Daniel Obarski, who handled kickoff duties last year, will assume that role. He has some big shoes to fill as Dylan Barnas was extremely solid in that role last season, connecting on 15-of-17 field goals.

FINAL ANALYSIS UCF's 2019 season was successful by most metrics, but Josh Heupel's team was left unfulfilled knowing that it could have accomplished much more, pointing to the fact that the Knights' three losses were decided by a combined seven points. The desire is to return to where they were in 2017 and 2018 as AAC champions and New Year's Six bowl representatives. UCF certainly has the talent to do just that.



Dillon Gabriel

"They have great skill talent at every position, a quarterback returning to a system that doesn't ask much of him to begin with, but the real story is the defense."

— An opposing AAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR	87	Jacob Harris (Sr.)	17	Amari Johnson (So.)
WR	**16**	**Tre Nixon (Sr.)**	7	Jaylon Robinson (So.)
WR	**6**	**Marlon Williams (Sr.)**	2	Otis Anderson (Sr.)
LT	70	Edward Collins (So.)	74	Tony Gray (Jr.)
LG	**65**	**Cole Schneider (Jr.)**	56	Lamarius Benson (So.)
C	55	Matthew Lee (Fr.)	58	Eric Seidelman (So.)
RG	**73**	**Samuel Jackson (Jr.)**	**61**	**Parker Boudreaux (Sr.)**
RT		Marcus Tatum (Sr.)	60	Josh McMullen (Sr.)
TE	**88**	**Jake Hescock (Sr.)**		Zach Marsh-Wojan (Jr.)
QB	**11**	**Dillon Gabriel (So.)**	8	Darriel Mack Jr. (Jr.)
RB	**2**	**Otis Anderson (Sr.)**	30	Greg McCrae (Sr.)

DEFENSE (8) — Returning Starters in Bold

DE	30	Tre'mon Morris-Brash (So.)	93	Landon Woodson (So.)
DT	7	Kenny Turnier (Sr.)	**94**	**Anthony Montalvo (Jr.)**
DT	**22**	**Kalia Davis (Jr.)**	91	Noah Hancock (Sr.)
DE	5	Randy Charlton (Jr.)	**96**	**Stephon Zayas (Jr.)**
LB	**10**	**Eriq Gilyard (Jr.)**	15	Tatum Bethune (So.)
LB	12	Eric Mitchell (Sr.)	11	J. Jean-Baptiste (So.)
CB	20	Brandon Moore (Sr.)		E. Appiah-Takyi (Jr.)
CB	**23**	**Tay Gowan (Sr.)**		Devunte Dawson (Jr.)
NB	**31**	**Aaron Robinson (Sr.)**	18	Dyllon Lester (So.)
S	**27**	**Richie Grant (Sr.)**	21	Derek Gainous (Jr.)
S	**3**	**Antwan Collier (Sr.)**		Justin Hodges (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	98	Daniel Obarski (So.)	**KR**	7	Jaylon Robinson So.)
P	36	Andrew Osteen (So.)	**PR**	2	Otis Anderson (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Dillon Gabriel, 398-236-3,653-7, 29 TDs
Rushing: Otis Anderson, 113 att., 726 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Tre Nixon, 49 rec., 830 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Richie Grant, 78
Sacks: Kenny Turnier, 3.5
Interceptions: Antwan Collier, 4

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Josh Heupel
Record at School: 22-4 (2 years)
Career Record: 22-4 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinators: Alex Golesh, Anthony Tucker
Defensive Coordinator: Randy Shannon
Orlando, FL • Spectrum Stadium (44,206)

UCF Athletics

USF Bulls

National Forecast: **99** · AAC Prediction: **10** · Projected Record: **4-8, 1-7 AAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at Texas
Sept.	12	Bethune-Cookman
Sept.	19	Nevada
Sept.	26	at Florida Atlantic
Oct.	3	at Cincinnati
Oct.	10	East Carolina
Oct.	17	at Temple
Oct.	23	Tulsa
Nov.	7	at Memphis
Nov.	14	at Houston
Nov.	21	Navy
Nov.	27	UCF

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 4-8, 2-6 AAC

Aug.	30	Wisconsin	L	0-49
Sept.	7	at Georgia Tech	L	10-14
Sept.	14	South Carolina State	W	55-16
Sept.	28	SMU	L	21-48
Oct.	5	at Connecticut	W	48-22
Oct.	12	BYU	W	27-23
Oct.	19	at Navy	L	3-35
Oct.	26	at East Carolina	W	45-20
Nov.	7	Temple	L	7-17
Nov.	16	Cincinnati	L	17-20
Nov.	23	Memphis	L	10-49
Nov.	29	at UCF	L	7-34

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Katravis Marsh, QB, Miami, FL
2. Jordan Smith, QB, Lake City, FL
3. Ben Knox, CB, DeLand, FL
4. Omarion Dollison, WR, Columbia, SC
5. Tramel Logan, DE, Miami, FL
6. Cesar Reyes, OG, Tampa, FL
7. Mac Harris, S, The Villages, FL
8. Christopher Townsel, CB, Deerfield Beach, FL
9. AJ Hamilton, CB, Dunnellon, FL
10. Le'Vontae Camiel, LB, Lake City, FL

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	AAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	20.8 ppg	11	115
Rushing	161.3 ypg	8	66
Passing	169.6 ypg	11	116
Total	330.8 ypg	12	112
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	28.9 ppg	7	75
Rushing	208.6 ypg	11	114
Passing	189.5 ypg	1	15
Total	398.1 ypg	8	71
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
+5	+0.42	4	32

STAT CORNER

18.54%

USF struggled to pose a consistent scoring threat in 2019. The Bulls scored 33 offensive touchdowns across 178 possessions last year, an 18.54 percent rate that ranked No. 117 nationally.

OFFENSE Generating offense is a top priority for first-year South Florida coach Jeff Scott, the former co-offensive coordinator at Clemson. The Bulls were largely punchless in American Athletic Conference play, scoring just eight touchdowns in their six league defeats. They were last in the AAC in total offense (330.8 yards per game).

Sophomore transfer Cade Fortin, who made two starts for North Carolina in 2018, has the quarterback edge over sophomore incumbent Jordan McCloud, who started 10 games for the Bulls last season. Fortin is a sturdy, pro-style passer and more of a fit for Scott's offense. McCloud, an elusive dual-threat performer who fought off a series of injuries, was inconsistent in the passing game, and the Bulls suffered because of it.

The Bulls are desperate for the emergence of a dependable receiver. Junior Randall St. Felix has experience, but his big-play production plummeted in 2019 (sinking to 11.9 yards per reception after 20.6 as a freshman). Senior Jacob Mathis adds a physical presence at tight end.

There are attractive options at running back — mighty-mite Johnny Ford, who rushed for 787 yards in 2018 but played just four games last season for disciplinary reasons, and speedster Kelley Joiner, who had 115 yards against Memphis.

The offensive line underperformed, and jobs are up for grabs. The Bulls have a corps of veterans, including guard Demetris Harris (23 career starts), center Brad Cecil (19), and tackle Donovan Jennings (14), but fresh blood is welcomed.

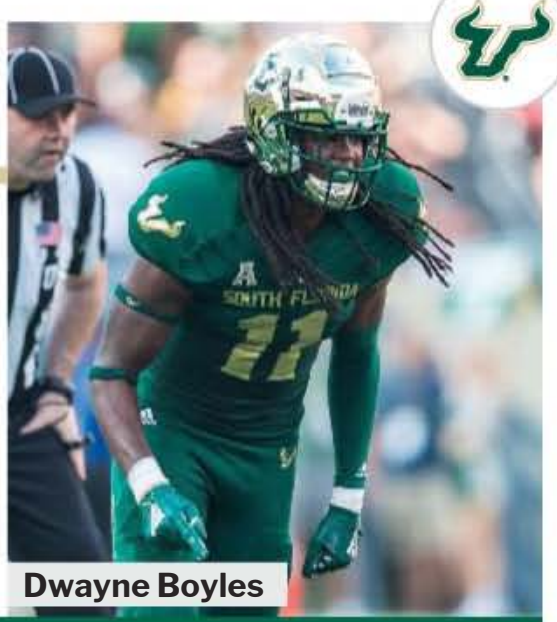
DEFENSE Junior linebacker Dwayne Boyles (team-leading 75 tackles, 12.5 tackles for a loss) has emerged as a leader. South Florida's secondary seems secure with senior cornerbacks KJ Sails (three interceptions) and Mike Hampton (26 career passes defended) leading the way to support juniors Nick Roberts and Bentlee Sanders.

But there are disturbing gaps on the defensive line, which was productive and disruptive during South Florida's most successful recent seasons. Junior Rashawn Yates, senior Blake Green, senior Kevin Kegler and senior Kelvin Pinkney have starting experience, but the Bulls are looking for more production.

SPECIALISTS Senior punter Trent Schneider had a nice season with a 46-yard average, 25 kicks of 50-plus yards and 15 downed inside the 20-yard line. The placekicking was not nearly as reliable, and drastic improvement is needed. Sophomore Spencer Shrader and senior Coby Weiss were a combined 7-for-14 on field-goal attempts. The longest make was from 37 yards.

FINAL ANALYSIS Scott hit all the right notes upon being hired, quickly implementing a culture of accountability and rallying the fans with his youthful exuberance and optimism. Now it's time for reality. Making a bowl game would be a magnificent accomplishment for Scott's first season, which includes a rigorous schedule (five road games against postseason teams). He would love a quick turnaround, but it's all about the big picture.

"A few months after I took the job, I was even more excited because I'm convinced of the great things we can do here," Scott says. "This is the right time, and I believe we're going to build something really, really special."



Dwayne Boyles

"Jeff (Scott) is going to have to start over at every level and suffer through this season. Focus everything on recruiting and playing time for young guys."

— An opposing AAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)				
WR	**5**	**Randall St. Felix (Jr.)**	84	Xavier Weaver (So.)
WR	**13**	**Eddie McDoom (Sr.)**	15	Jernard Phillips (Sr.)
WR	**19**	**Bryce Miller (Jr.)**	80	Terrence Horne (So.)
LT	**73**	**Donovan Jennings (Jr.)**	57	Joshua Blanchard (Fr.)
LG	**64**	**Demetris Harris (Jr.)**	62	Matthew McDuffie (Fr.)
C	**74**	**Brad Cecil (Jr.)**	61	Troy Fields (Jr.)
RG	52	Michael Wiggs (Sr.)	70	Sebastian Sainterling (So.)
RT	76	Jarrett Hopple (Sr.)	75	Jean Marcellus (Jr.)
TE	85	Jacob Mathis (Sr.)	87	Frederick Lloyd (Jr.)
QB	6	Cade Fortin (So.)	**3**	**Jordan McCloud (So.)**
RB	1	Johnny Ford (So.)	10	Kelley Joiner (So.)
DEFENSE (6)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	40	Jason Vaughn (So.)	45	Darrien Grant (Jr.)
DT	**91**	**Rashawn Yates (Jr.)**	96	Kelvin Pinkney (Sr.)
DT	98	Blake Green (Sr.)	90	Kevin Kegler (Sr.)
DE	56	Tyrik Jones (Sr.)	46	Ryan Thaxton (Jr.)
OLB	**11**	**Dwayne Boyles (Jr.)**	47	Tae'Aviion Gray (So.)
MLB	44	Antonio Grier (Jr.)	59	Andrew Mims (Jr.)
OLB	41	Demaurez Bellamy (So.)	38	Randal Copeland (So.)
CB	**7**	**Mike Hampton (Sr.)**	25	Eugene Bowman (So.)
CB	**9**	**KJ Sails (Sr.)**	10	Daquan Evans (So.)
SS	**2**	**Nick Roberts (Jr.)**	3	Vincent Davis (Jr.)
FS	**20**	**Bentlee Sanders (Jr.)**	22	Mekhi LaPointe (Jr.)
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	24	Coby Weiss (Sr.)	**KR** 20	Bentlee Sanders (Jr.)
P	39	Trent Schneider (Sr.)	**PR** 9	KJ Sails (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jordan McCloud, 224-124-1,429-8, 12 TDs
Rushing: Kelley Joiner, 71 att., 364 yds., 0 TDs
Receiving: Randall St. Felix, 22 rec., 261 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Dwayne Boyles, 75
Sacks: Antonio Grier, 4.0
Interceptions: KJ Sails, 3

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Jeff Scott
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Charlie Weis Jr.
Defensive Coordinator: Glenn Spencer
Tampa, FL • Raymond James Stadium (65,618)

USF Athletics

Big 12 *Preview*

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1 *Oklahoma*
SOONERS
12-1, 8-1 Big 12

2 *Oklahoma State*
COWBOYS
9-4, 6-3 Big 12

3 *Texas*
LONGHORNS
8-4, 6-3 Big 12

4 *Iowa State*
CYCLONES
8-4, 6-3 Big 12

5 *Baylor*
BEARS
8-4, 5-4 Big 12

6 *TCU*
HORNED FROGS
7-5, 5-4 Big 12

7 *Kansas State*
WILDCATS
7-5, 4-5 Big 12

8 *West Virginia*
MOUNTAINEERS
5-7, 3-6 Big 12

9 *Texas Tech*
RED RAIDERS
5-7, 2-7 Big 12

10 *Kansas*
JAYHAWKS
2-10, 0-9 Big 12

Big 12 Championship: **Oklahoma over Oklahoma State**

Games to Watch

SEPT. 5
OLE MISS VS. BAYLOR (HOUSTON)
Baylor's Dave Aranda makes his head-coaching debut against Lane Kiffin-led Ole Miss in NRG Stadium.

SEPT. 12
IOWA STATE AT IOWA
Matt Campbell has done a lot of good things in his four seasons at Iowa State, but he still hasn't beaten Iowa.

SEPT. 12
TEXAS AT LSU
Texas gets another shot at LSU, this time in Baton Rouge. Tom Herman's Longhorns could use a signature win.

OCT. 3
BAYLOR AT OKLAHOMA
Baylor lost twice to Oklahoma last season, but both games were close, including an overtime defeat in the Big 12 Championship Game.

OCT. 10
OKLAHOMA VS. TEXAS (DALLAS)
The last six editions of the Red River Showdown (excluding the 2018 Big 12 Championship Game) have been decided by seven points or fewer.

OCT. 10
IOWA STATE AT OKLAHOMA STATE
The last five games between these two teams have featured an average margin of victory of 6.2 points.

Brooks: Tim Clark;
Wallace: Oklahoma State Athletics

2020 Unit Rankings

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
Baylor	4	6	6	4	9	8	6
Iowa State	2	4	4	7	1	1	1
Kansas	10	5	8	10	10	10	10
Kansas State	8	10	10	9	8	6	7
Oklahoma	3	2	2	1	2	3	5
Oklahoma State	5	1	1	2	5	2	4
TCU	7	8	9	5	6	5	3
Texas	1	3	3	3	3	4	2
Texas Tech	6	7	5	6	7	7	8
West Virginia	9	9	7	8	4	9	9

Tylan Wallace

2020 Bowl Projections

Alamo Bowl: Oklahoma State vs. USC
Armed Forces Bowl: Kansas State vs. SMU
Camping World Bowl: Texas vs. Virginia Tech
Cheez-It Bowl: TCU vs. Purdue
Liberty Bowl: Baylor vs. Kentucky
Texas Bowl: Iowa State vs. Mississippi State
Sugar Bowl (CFP): Oklahoma vs. Clemson

Recruiting by School

1. Texas
2. Oklahoma
3. TCU
4. West Virginia
5. Oklahoma State
6. Iowa State
7. Texas Tech
8. Kansas State
9. Baylor
10. Kansas

Kennedy Brooks

Big 12 Coordinator Carousel

Baylor: Offense
New: Larry Fedora
Old: Jeff Nixon, Glenn Thomas

Baylor: Defense
New: Ron Roberts
Old: Phil Snow

Kansas State: Defense
New: Joe Klanderman
Old: Scottie Hazelton

Oklahoma State: Offense
New: Kasey Dunn
Old: Sean Gleeson

TCU: Offense
New: Sonny Cumbie
Old: Sonny Cumbie, Curtis Luper

Texas: Offense
New: Herb Hand, Mike Yurcich
Old: Tim Beck, Herb Hand

Texas: Defense
New: Chris Ash, Coleman Hutzler
Old: Craig Naivar, Todd Orlando

Texas Tech: Defense
New: Keith Patterson, Derek Jones
Old: Keith Patterson

West Virginia: Offense
New: Gerad Parker, Chad Scott
Old: Matt Moore, Chad Scott

OCT. 17
OKLAHOMA AT IOWA STATE
Iowa State has given Oklahoma all it can handle in recent seasons, and the Sooners know very well what can happen when teams to venture to Ames.

OCT. 24
OKLAHOMA STATE AT OKLAHOMA
Bedlam has been a bit one-sided recently. Oklahoma State's last victory in the rivalry came in Norman in 2014.

OCT. 24
TCU AT BAYLOR
Baylor snapped a four-game losing streak to TCU in a three-OT thriller. The Frogs will look to return the favor.

OCT. 31
BAYLOR AT TEXAS
Darrell K Royal–Texas Memorial Stadium hasn't been too scary for visitors. The Longhorns hope to change to that when Baylor pays a visit on Halloween.

NOV. 14
KANSAS STATE AT OKLAHOMA
Kansas State shocked the college football world by knocking off Oklahoma in Manhattan last season.

NOV. 27
TEXAS AT OKLAHOMA STATE
This series has been tight — four of the last five meetings decided by six points or fewer. A spot in the Big 12 Championship Game could be at stake.

Brock Purdy

Big 12 Returning Leaders

Passing	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	AVG/G
Brock Purdy, Iowa State	475	312	65.7	3,982	27	9	306.3
Sam Ehlinger, Texas	454	296	65.2	3,663	32	10	281.8
Charlie Brewer, Baylor	389	251	64.5	3,161	21	7	225.8

Rushing	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
Chuba Hubbard, Oklahoma State	328	2,094	6.4	21	92	161.1
Pooka Williams Jr., Kansas	203	1,061	5.2	3	65	96.5
Kennedy Brooks, Oklahoma	155	1,011	6.5	6	48	77.8

Receiving	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
Andrew Parchment, Kansas	65	831	12.8	7	75	69.2
Stephon Robinson Jr., Kansas	45	727	16.2	8	65	60.6
Sam James, West Virginia	69	677	9.8	2	51	56.4

Tackles: Garret Wallow, TCU (125), Terrel Bernard, Baylor (112)
Sacks: Wyatt Hubert, Kansas State (7.0), Dante Stills, West Virginia (7.0), Darius Stills, West Virginia (7.0)
Interceptions: Kolby Harvell-Peel, Oklahoma State (5), Ar'Darius Washington, TCU (5)

2019 Big 12 Standings

	BIG 12	OVERALL		BIG 12	OVERALL
Oklahoma	8-1	12-2	Iowa State	5-4	7-6
Baylor	8-1	11-3	West Virginia	3-6	5-7
Texas	5-4	8-5	TCU	3-6	5-7
Oklahoma State	5-4	8-5	Texas Tech	2-7	4-8
Kansas State	5-4	8-5	Kansas	1-8	3-9

2019 Bowl Results

Liberty Bowl: Navy 20, Kansas State 17

Texas Bowl: Texas A&M 24, Oklahoma State 21

Camping World Bowl: Notre Dame 33, Iowa State 9

Alamo Bowl: Texas 38, Utah 10

Sugar Bowl: Georgia 26, Baylor 14

Peach Bowl (CFP Semifinal): LSU 63, Oklahoma 28

2019 Big 12 Team Stats & Rankings

Offense

	SCORING	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
Baylor	33.6 (3)	166.4 (6)	255.1 (5)	421.5 (6)
Iowa State	32.2 (5)	133.0 (9)	311.3 (2)	444.3 (5)
Kansas	23.5 (9)	145.8 (8)	231.5 (7)	377.3 (8)
Kansas State	29.6 (8)	178.0 (4)	180.9 (10)	358.9 (9)
Oklahoma	42.1 (1)	240.2 (1)	297.4 (3)	537.6 (1)
Oklahoma State	32.5 (4)	229.6 (2)	224.3 (8)	453.9 (4)
TCU	30.3 (7)	204.0 (3)	203.7 (9)	407.7 (7)
Texas	35.2 (2)	176.5 (5)	289.3 (4)	465.8 (3)
Texas Tech	30.5 (6)	149.6 (7)	324.7 (1)	474.3 (2)
West Virginia	20.6 (10)	73.3 (10)	248.7 (6)	321.9 (10)

Defense

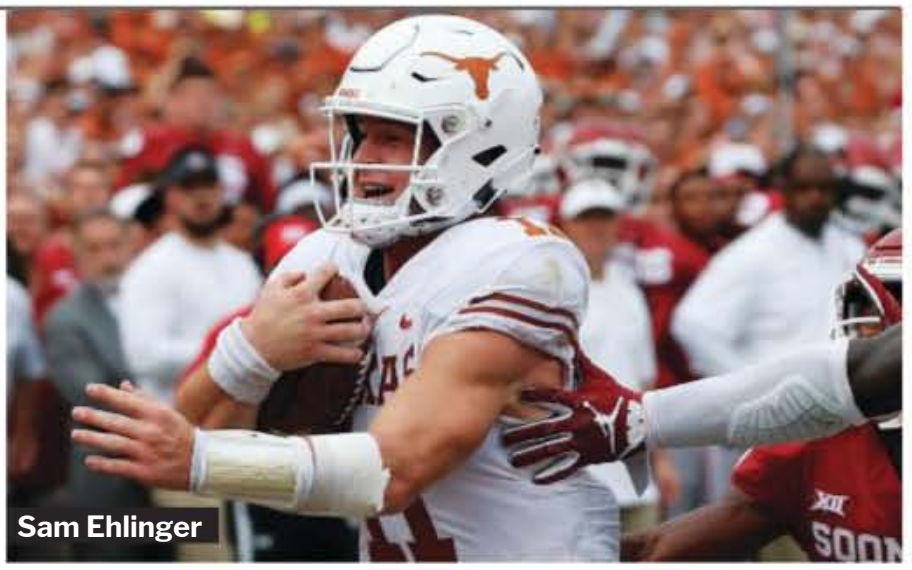
	SCORING	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
Baylor	19.8 (1)	142.9 (5)	217.6 (3)	360.4 (3)
Iowa State	25.9 (3)	139.5 (4)	229.8 (5)	369.3 (5)
Kansas	36.1 (10)	225.7 (10)	249.5 (7)	475.2 (9)
Kansas State	21.4 (2)	165.5 (8)	202.9 (2)	368.4 (4)
Oklahoma	27.3 (6)	134.1 (1)	222.4 (4)	356.4 (2)
Oklahoma State	26.8 (5)	158.5 (6)	253.8 (8)	412.3 (7)
TCU	26.4 (4)	137.3 (2)	199.7 (1)	336.9 (1)
Texas	27.5 (7)	138.9 (3)	292.5 (9)	431.5 (8)
Texas Tech	30.3 (9)	172.5 (9)	307.8 (10)	480.3 (10)
West Virginia	28.8 (8)	159.4 (7)	239.9 (6)	399.3 (6)

Purdy: Tim Umphrey; Ehlinger: Chris Covatta; Hubert: K-State Athletics

ALL-BIG 12 TEAM

First-Team Offense

QB	**Sam Ehlinger**	6-3	230	Sr.	Texas
RB	**Chuba Hubbard**	6-0	201	Jr.	Oklahoma State
RB	**Kennedy Brooks**	5-11	214	Jr.	Oklahoma
AP	**Pooka Williams Jr.**	5-10	170	Jr.	Kansas
WR	**Tylan Wallace**	6-0	185	Sr.	Oklahoma State
WR	**Charleston Rambo**	6-1	179	Jr.	Oklahoma
TE	**Charlie Kolar**	6-6	252	Jr.	Iowa State
C	**Creed Humphrey**	6-5	307	Jr.	Oklahoma
OL	**Sam Cosmi**	6-7	310	Jr.	Texas
OL	**Teven Jenkins**	6-6	321	Sr.	Oklahoma State
OL	**Adrian Ealy**	6-6	341	Jr.	Oklahoma
OL	**Jack Anderson**	6-5	320	Jr.	Texas Tech


Sam Ehlinger

Wyatt Hubert

First-Team Defense

DL	**Darius Stills**	6-1	282	Sr.	West Virginia
DL	**Ronnie Perkins**	6-3	247	Jr.	Oklahoma
DL	**Wyatt Hubert**	6-3	258	Jr.	Kansas State
DL	**Eli Howard**	6-4	275	Sr.	Texas Tech
LB	**Garret Wallow**	6-2	230	Sr.	TCU
LB	**Joseph Ossai**	6-4	255	Jr.	Texas
LB	**Terrel Bernard**	6-1	222	Jr.	Baylor
CB	**Anthony Johnson**	6-0	186	Jr.	Iowa State
CB	**D'Shawn Jamison**	5-10	190	Jr.	Texas
S	**Trevon Moehrig**	6-2	208	Jr.	TCU
S	**Kolby Harvell-Peel**	6-0	210	Jr.	Oklahoma State

First-Team Specialists

K	**Gabe Brkic**	6-2	197	So.	Oklahoma
P	**Austin McNamara**	6-4	175	So.	Texas Tech
KR	**Joshua Youngblood**	5-10	180	So.	Kansas State
PR	**Dillon Stoner**	6-0	196	Sr.	Oklahoma State

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	**Brock Purdy**	6-1	210	Jr.	Iowa State
RB	**Breece Hall**	6-1	205	So.	Iowa State
RB	**SaRodorick Thompson**	6-0	210	So.	Texas Tech
AP	**Sam James**	6-0	184	So.	West Virginia
WR	**Brennan Eagles**	6-4	230	Jr.	Texas
WR	**Tarique Milton**	5-10	183	Jr.	Iowa State
TE	**Pro Wells**	6-4	257	Jr.	TCU
C	**Dawson Deaton**	6-6	305	Jr.	Texas Tech
OL	**Trevor Downing**	6-4	300	So.	Iowa State
OL	**Dylan Galloway**	6-5	326	Sr.	Oklahoma State
OL	**Connor Galvin**	6-7	302	Jr.	Baylor
OL	**Marquis Hayes**	6-5	344	Jr.	Oklahoma

Breece Hall
Iowa State

Brennan Eagles
Texas

Spencer Rattler
Oklahoma

Dante Stills
West Virginia

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	**Jalen Redmond**	6-3	278	So.	Oklahoma
DL	**JaQuan Bailey**	6-2	255	Sr.	Iowa State
DL	**Dante Stills**	6-3	275	Jr.	West Virginia
DL	**Ochaun Mathis**	6-5	247	So.	TCU
LB	**Mike Rose**	6-3	240	Jr.	Iowa State
LB	**Amen Ogbongbemiga**	6-1	231	Sr.	Oklahoma State
LB	**Riko Jeffers**	6-2	240	Sr.	Texas Tech
CB	**Rodarius Williams**	6-0	192	Sr.	Oklahoma State
CB	**Raleigh Texada**	5-10	180	Sr.	Baylor
S	**Caden Sterns**	6-1	205	Jr.	Texas
S	**Greg Eisworth**	6-0	205	Sr.	Iowa State

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	**Cameron Dicker**	6-1	205	Jr.	Texas
P	**Kyle Thompson**	6-4	222	Sr.	Kansas
KR	**Kene Nwangwu**	6-1	205	Sr.	Iowa State
PR	**D'Shawn Jamison**	5-10	190	Jr.	Texas

THIRD-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	**Spencer Rattler**	6-0	198	Fr.	Oklahoma
RB	**John Lovett**	6-0	212	Sr.	Baylor
RB	**Keaontay Ingram**	6-0	235	Jr.	Texas
AP	**Stephon Robinson Jr.**	5-10	180	Sr.	Kansas
WR	**Erik Ezukanma**	6-3	210	So.	Texas Tech
WR	**Tyquan Thornton**	6-3	176	Jr.	Baylor
TE	**Chase Allen**	6-7	245	Sr.	Iowa State
C	**Derek Kerstetter**	6-5	310	Sr.	Texas
OL	**Josh Rivas**	6-6	323	Jr.	Kansas State
OL	**Bryce Bray**	6-4	301	So.	Oklahoma State
OL	**Josh Sills**	6-6	338	Sr.	Oklahoma State
OL	**Coy McMillon**	6-4	280	Jr.	TCU

THIRD-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	**Trace Ford**	6-4	248	So.	Oklahoma State
DL	**Corey Bethley**	6-2	290	Sr.	TCU
DL	**Ta'Quon Graham**	6-4	300	Sr.	Texas
DL	**Zach Petersen**	6-4	262	Jr.	Iowa State
LB	**Malcolm Rodriguez**	5-11	210	Sr.	Oklahoma State
LB	**O'Rien Vance**	6-1	231	Jr.	Iowa State
LB	**DaShaun White**	6-0	223	Jr.	Oklahoma
CB	**AJ Parker**	5-11	178	Sr.	Kansas State
CB	**B.J. Foster**	6-2	205	Jr.	Texas
S	**Tre Sterling**	5-11	201	Jr.	Oklahoma State
S	**Ar'Darius Washington**	5-8	179	So.	TCU

THIRD-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	**Blake Lynch**	5-5	148	Sr.	Kansas State
P	**Reeves Mundschau**	5-11	185	Jr.	Oklahoma
KR	**D'Shawn Jamison**	5-10	190	Jr.	Texas
PR	**Tarique Milton**	5-10	183	Jr.	Iowa State

Hall: Iowa State Athletics; Eagles, Rattler: Tim Clark; Stills: West Virginia Athletics

BAYLOR Bears

National Forecast: **27** · Big 12 Prediction: **5** · Projected Record: **8-4, 5-4 Big 12**

Charlie Brewer

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Dave Aranda
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Larry Fedora
Defensive Coordinator: Ron Roberts
Location: Waco, TX
Stadium: McLane Stadium (45,140)

KEY BEARS

CHARLIE BREWER, QB On the brink of breaking all the school passing records set by Heisman Trophy winner Robert Griffin III.

TERREL BERNARD, LB Bernard had a team-high 112 tackles with 4.5 sacks, three fumble recoveries and an interception.

CONNOR GALVIN, OT A two-year starter at left tackle and a mountain of a man (6'7", 302) who was key to a balanced Baylor offense.

KEY LOSSES

JAMES LYNCH, DE A consensus first-team All-American and the Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year, Lynch set Baylor's single-season (13.5) and career (22.0) sack records.

DENZEL MIMS, WR Mims finished his career with 186 catches for 2,925 yards and 28 touchdowns.

GRAYLAND ARNOLD, S Ranked second in the Big 12 and fifth nationally with six interceptions, Arnold also scored on a punt return.

RISING STAR

On a defense with plenty of holes, redshirt freshman **MATT JONES** (6'3", 237) seems to be a perfect fit for the JACK position, a cross between a linebacker and stand-up end. The District 2-6A Defensive Player of the Year as a senior at Odessa Permian, he saw limited action last season.

Dave Aranda knows a thing or two about winning a national championship, serving as the defensive coordinator for an LSU team that capped off a perfect 15–0 season with a 42–25 win over Clemson in last season's national championship game. Three days later, the 43-year-old Aranda took the Baylor head-coaching job and boldly proclaimed that the Bears had "the ability to win a national championship."

"To be able to hire somebody that knows that, that gets that, that understands that … it's something that is incredible," says Baylor director of athletics Mack Rhoades. "I really believe this, with the staff he's going to assemble, we're going to take a run at a national championship. Nothing less is acceptable, and that's where we're headed."

Aranda takes over a program that was 11–3 and a win away from last year's playoffs, losing to Oklahoma in its first Big 12 Championship game.

"It's coming from somebody that's actually done it, somebody that actually won the national championship," junior linebacker Terrel Bernard says, "and it's somewhere we're trying to be."

OFFENSE There's not a better time than now to have a senior quarterback with 30 starts under his belt and the leader of one of the greatest two-year turnarounds in the history of college football. Charlie Brewer earned Texas Bowl MVP honors two years ago and threw for 3,161 yards and 21 touchdowns last season, helping the Bears go from 1–11 in 2017 to 11–3 in 2019. With 7,742 career yards passing, he's just 2,624 yards shy of the school record set by Heisman Trophy winner Robert Griffin III.

"That's a foundation piece," says Aranda, who took the Baylor job when the Carolina Panthers hired Matt Rhule in early January. "The respect he carries among our team and his ability to want more and be better and want to maximize his potential, he's a joy to be around and a joy to coach."

Last in the Big 12 the last two years in sacks allowed, the Bears need to improve an O-line that returns junior Connor Galvin and senior Blake Bedier at the tackles. Xavier Newman-Johnson has made 19 starts at guard over the last three years and is moving to center, but he could be a redshirt candidate if Jason Moore works out.

John Lovett has already cracked the top 20 on the school's all-time rushing list with 1,673 yards in three years. He is capable of being the featured back, but this is possibly the deepest position on the team with senior Trestan Ebner, sophomore Craig "Sqwirl" Williams and redshirt freshmen Qualan Jones and Jonah White.

Tyquan Thornton could be one of the Bears' go-to receivers after hauling in 45 passes for 782 yards and five touchdowns last season. In his first two years, Thornton was in the shadow of a pair of NFL Draft picks in Jalen Hurd and Denzel Mims.

DEFENSE Ron Roberts, who gave Aranda his first defensive coordinator job at Division II Delta State 13 years ago, jumped at the chance to switch places.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	vs. Ole Miss #
Sept.	12	Kansas
Sept.	19	Incarnate Word
Sept.	26	Louisiana Tech
Oct.	3	at Oklahoma
Oct.	15	at Texas Tech
Oct.	24	TCU
Oct.	31	at Texas
Nov.	7	Oklahoma State
Nov.	14	at Iowa State
Nov.	21	at West Virginia
Nov.	28	Kansas State

#Houston, TX

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 11-3, 8-1 BIG 12

Aug.	31	Stephen F. Austin		W	56-17
Sept.	7	UTSA		W	63-14
Sept.	21	at Rice		W	21-13
Sept.	28	Iowa State		W	23-21
Oct.	5	at Kansas State		W	31-12
Oct.	12	Texas Tech	(ot)	W	33-30
Oct.	19	at Oklahoma State		W	45-27
Oct.	31	West Virginia		W	17-14
Nov.	9	at TCU	(ot)	W	29-23
Nov.	16	Oklahoma		L	31-34
Nov.	23	Texas		W	24-10
Nov.	30	at Kansas		W	61-6
Dec.	7	vs. Oklahoma #	(ot)	L	23-30
Jan.	1	vs. Georgia %		L	14-26

#Arlington %Sugar Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	BIG 12	NATIONAL
Scoring	33.6 ppg	3	27
Rushing	166.4 ypg	6	61
Passing	255.1 ypg	5	44
Total	421.5 ypg	6	52
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**BIG 12**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	19.8 ppg	1	19
Rushing	142.9 ypg	5	49
Passing	217.6 ypg	3	49
Total	360.4 ypg	3	39
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**BIG 12**	**NATIONAL**
+11	+0.79	1	11

2020 RECRUITS

1. James Sylvester, DE, Newton, TX
2. Taye McWilliams, RB, Rosenberg, TX
3. Drake Dabney, TE, Cypress, TX
4. Blake Shapen, QB, Shreveport, LA
5. Micah Mazzccua, OG, Baltimore, MD
6. Will Garner, LB, Spring, TX
7. Devin Neal Jr., CB, Lexington, KY
8. Mike Harris, CB, Phenix City, AL
9. Chateau Reed, S, Lawton, OK
10. AJ McCarty, CB, Brownwood, TX
11. Anthony Anyanwu, DE, Sachse, TX
12. Gavin Byers, OG, Colleyville, TX
13. Seth Jones, WR, Pearland, TX
14. Brooks Miller, LB, West Monroe, LA
15. Mose Jeffery, OG, Longview, TX*
16. Alfahiym Walcott, CB, Wilmington, NC*
17. Victor Obi, DE, Houston, TX*

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Chris Covatta

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	31.4	28
Defense	29.0	57
Margin	**+2.4**	**39**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	43.6%	52
Defense	39.3%	40
Margin	**+4.3%**	**45**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.2	33
Defense	4.9	20
Margin	**+1.3**	**16**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	5.1	22
Defense	3.6	7
Margin	**+1.5**	**5**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	4.0	32
Actual	11	9
Margin	**+7.0**	**13**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

-8.29

Baylor averaged 76.00 offensive plays per game in 2018, which ranked No. 14 in the country. The Bears slowed things down considerably in 2019, averaging 67.71 snaps on average. The 8.29-play difference was the largest in the Big 12 and fourth largest nationally.

-0.216

Baylor allowed 0.268 points per play defensively in 2019, which led the Big 12 and ranked No. 12 in the country. The Bears, who had allowed 0.484 points per play in 2018, improved 0.216 points per snap — a bigger drop than any FBS defense nationwide.

1.86%

The Bears surrendered only nine pass plays of 30 yards or longer in 2019 across 485 pass attempts. The 1.86 percent explosive pass rate Baylor posted was the best in the nation.

"I consider Dave a friend. Sometimes, I see it as tough, because the last thing you want to do is let your friend down," says Roberts, who takes over DC duties after holding that position the last two years at Louisiana. "The plus is obviously coming to a university like Baylor, which I consider a destination job. And then the other thing, which is a no-brainer, is the chance to be around (Aranda) again on a daily basis and talk football."

With All-America defensive end James Lynch and safety Grayland Arnold both declaring for the NFL Draft a year early, Roberts has a major rebuilding job with only two returning starters.

Bernard led the team last year with 112 tackles and three fumble recoveries and added 9.5 tackles, 4.5 sacks, five QB hurries and an interception. Jalen Pitre is in line to start at the other inside linebacker position, with grad transfer William Bradley-King from Arkansas State the frontrunner at the hybrid linebacker/stand-up end spot that LSU's K'Lavon Chaisson parlayed into a first-round selection in the 2020 NFL Draft.

"Those guys are born linebackers," Aranda says of Bernard and Pitre. "They understand football, they know what's coming at them, they're great communicators. Just about as important as having a quarterback is having someone like that in the middle of your defense."

There's not much experience up front, with sophomore ends TJ Franklin and Gabe Hall and junior Chidi Ogbonnaya at nose tackle. On the back end, senior cornerback Raleigh Texada is joined by JT Woods and Christian Morgan at the safeties and Kalon "Boogie" Barnes at corner.

"You could see the flash, the speed. I think we're going to be a very fast group," Aranda says.

SPECIALISTS John Mayers nailed 16-of-19 field goals last year, including a career-long 51-yarder at the end of regulation in a triple-OT win over TCU. Punter Issac Power had an up-and-down freshman season but finished strong with a 49.1-yard average in the Sugar Bowl.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Bears will have some ground to make up after having spring football canceled by COVID-19. Look for a step back with the inexperience on defense, but Brewer has enough weapons on offense to get this team back in a bowl for the third straight year.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)				
WR	16	Jared Atkinson (Sr.)	**81**	**Tyquan Thornton (Jr.)**
WR	21	Josh Fleeks (Jr.)	18	Gavin Holmes (So.)
WR	**13**	**R.J. Sneed (Jr.)**	19	Yusuf Terry (Fr.)
LT	**76**	**Connor Galvin (Jr.)**	73	Davis DiVall (Fr.)
LG	61	Khalil Keith (Jr.)	70	Mose Jeffery (Jr.)
C	77	Jason Moore (Jr.)	**55**	**X. Newman-Johnson (Sr.)**
RG	57	Johncarlo Valentin (Sr.)	54	Rob Saulin (Jr.)
RT	**56**	**Blake Bedier (Sr.)**	**79**	**Casey Phillips (So.)**
TE	87	Christoph Henle (Jr.)	86	Ben Sims (So.)
QB	**12**	**Charlie Brewer (Sr.)**	11	Gerry Bohanon (So.)
RB	25	Trestan Ebner (Sr.)	**7**	**John Lovett (Sr.)**
DEFENSE (2)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	90	TJ Franklin (So.)	55	Garmon Randolph (Fr.)
NT	98	Chidi Ogbonnaya (Jr.)	64	Ryan Miller (Jr.)
DE	95	Gabe Hall (So.)	94	Harrison White (Fr.)
JACK		William Bradley-King (Sr.)	52	Matt Jones (Fr.)
MLB	**26**	**Terrel Bernard (Jr.)**	35	Trystan Slinker (Sr.)
OLB	24	Jalen Pitre (Jr.)	28	Abram Smith (Jr.)
CB	**13**	**Raleigh Texada (Sr.)**	25	Byron Hanspard Jr. (So.)
CB	12	Kalon Barnes (Jr.)	37	Mark Milton (So.)
STAR	42	Jairon McVea (Sr.)	20	Brandon White (Fr.)
S	15	Christian Morgan (Jr.)	33	Will Williams (Fr.)
S	22	JT Woods (Jr.)	23	Zeke Brown (Sr.)
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	95	John Mayers (So.)	**KR** 21	Josh Fleeks (Jr.)
P	43	Issac Power (So.)	**PR** 13	R.J. Sneed (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Charlie Brewer	389	251	3,161	21	7
Jacob Zeno	18	9	223	1	1
Gerry Bohanon	36	17	187	2	0
RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
John Lovett	103	655	6.4	5	
JaMycal Hasty	109	627	5.8	7	
Charlie Brewer	147	344	2.3	11	
Gerry Bohanon	42	272	6.5	3	
Trestan Ebner	53	250	4.7	3	
RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**	
Denzel Mims	66	1,020	15.5	12	
Tyquan Thornton	45	782	17.4	5	
R.J. Sneed	42	437	10.4	3	
Josh Fleeks	25	262	10.5	1	
JaMycal Hasty	25	184	7.4	0	

KICKING: **John Mayers, 16-19 FGs, 101 pts.**
TACKLES: **Terrel Bernard, 112**; Jordan Williams, 89
SACKS: James Lynch, 13.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Grayland Arnold, 6

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE BEARS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP BAYLOR

"So many questions here with Dave (Aranda) coming in. Last year, this was the best defensive team in our league, so having a guy with Dave's pedigree makes a lot of sense. They were hell to deal with last year. Phil Snow did an unbelievable job coaching them up. Third down and red zone, you knew they were getting after you. Tons of disruption on the edge, but they're gone; the ends, the nose, all gone. Dave has to put his mark on the defense right away, but no matter what, you can't replace all that in an offseason, not as a first-year staff at Baylor. ... Bringing Larry Fedora in as OC is a really smart move. He knows the league being at Texas, and he's a great situational play-caller. Expect some weird gadget plays and tricks. He will get a chance to be really creative here, and they've got enough talent to work with. His first job is to keep that quarterback healthier. If there's a criticism on the previous guys, it's that they banged up (Charlie) Brewer a lot. You always have a chance in the Big 12 with an experienced arm, and he's got it. ... There are a lot of questions about Dave as a head coach. He's an exceptional defensive mind, but in many ways he's the polar opposite of (Matt) Rhule in demeanor and attitude. ... Dave is going to have to delegate, and that's the toughest lesson for a first-year head coach."

IOWA STATE Cyclones

National Forecast: **17** · Big 12 Prediction: **4** · Projected Record: **8-4, 6-3 Big 12**

Brock Purdy

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Matt Campbell
Record at School: 26-25 (4 years)
Career Record: 61-40 (8+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Tom Manning
Defensive Coordinator: Jon Heacock
Location: Ames, IA
Stadium: Jack Trice Stadium (61,500)

KEY CYCLONES

BROCK PURDY, QB Set 18 school records last season. He is 11–5 as a starting quarterback in the Big 12, which is tied for the most league wins in Iowa State history.

CHARLIE KOLAR, TE The first-team All-Big 12 performer accumulated 697 receiving yards in 2019.

GREG EISWORTH, S The two-time All-Big 12 selection is as versatile as they come. Has 152 tackles and 15 pass breakups in two seasons.

KEY LOSSES

JOSH KNIPFEL, OL Replacing Iowa State's best offensive lineman from the last two seasons will be a chore.

RAY LIMA, DL He never accumulated many stats, but Lima's ability to occupy blockers allowed Iowa State to line up in a three-man front for most of his career.

MARCEL SPEARS, LB Led the Cyclones in tackles last season, but his leadership will be as difficult to replace as his production.

RISING STAR

Wide receiver **XAVIER HUTCHINSON**, a 6'3", 200-pound junior college standout who arrived on campus in the spring, is immensely talented. A huge late recruiting win for the Cyclones, Hutchinson should get plenty of great looks, with an elite quarterback throwing him the ball.

To fully understand how far Iowa State football has come under Matt Campbell, a brief history lesson is necessary.

The Big 12 Conference began play in 1996. Since then, only four Iowa State teams have finished league play with a winning record. During Campbell's four-year tenure, the Cyclones have achieved this feat three seasons in a row. Iowa State has come so far under Campbell that in 2019, the Cyclones tied for third in the Big 12 — and the season was seen as a disappointment by many. Due to an elite quarterback and a deeper roster with more experience, optimism is high in Ames that the "next step" could be right around the corner.

OFFENSE Brock Purdy is one of the top quarterbacks in college football. That's why, even with only five starters returning on that side of the football, Iowa State's offense is expected to take another step forward in 2020. The junior signal caller has compiled an eye-popping 21 school records in just two seasons at the helm. Purdy, who led the Big 12 in passing at 306.3 yards per game, fought a handful of injuries as a sophomore, but Iowa State still had the best statistical season in program history.

Excitement is rightfully building in the running game due to the midseason emergence of Breece Hall. The shifty yet sturdy sophomore averaged 101.6 yards per game with nine TDs in his eight starts as a freshman.

The running back room is deep with veterans, while redshirt freshman Jirehl Brock has a bright future as well.

Iowa State might have the best group of tight ends in college football. The position caught 75 passes for 971 yards and 10 touchdowns last season. All three Cyclones tight ends — Charlie Kolar, Chase Allen and Dylan Soehner — are back.

Anchored by veterans Trevor Downing and Colin Newell in the middle, the O-line should be a deeper unit overall while having less experience. "Having those two foundational leaders back is exciting for us," Campbell says. "Now we need to fill in the pieces around them."

Up-and-comers Grant Treiber and Joey Ramos are both promising young tackles.

Campbell believes that the program has "hit" on its last three offensive line recruiting classes. If that is the case, it should start to pay off this season.

DEFENSE Nine starters return for a defensive unit that took a small step back in 2019. "You saw us do some really good things and you saw us at times where attention to detail and some of the little things that we have done in the past to win football games, we didn't do as well," says Campbell.

Third down was an issue. The Cyclones ended the season ranked 89th in that category but were in the top 50 in virtually every other defensive statistic.

The building blocks for another stout Jon Heacock-led unit are in place, as Iowa State is loaded up front.

Senior defensive end JaQuan Bailey is back for a fifth season after taking a medical redshirt due to an injury early last year. He currently ranks third among all active

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	South Dakota
Sept.	12	at Iowa
Sept.	19	UNLV
Sept.	26	Texas Tech
Oct.	3	at Kansas
Oct.	10	at Oklahoma State
Oct.	17	Oklahoma
Oct.	29	Kansas State
Nov.	7	at TCU
Nov.	14	Baylor
Nov.	21	at Texas
Nov.	27	West Virginia

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 7-6, 5-4 BIG 12

Aug.	31	Northern Iowa (ot)	W	29-26
Sept.	14	Iowa	L	17-18
Sept.	21	UL Monroe	W	72-20
Sept.	28	at Baylor	L	21-23
Oct.	5	TCU	W	49-24
Oct.	12	at West Virginia	W	38-14
Oct.	19	at Texas Tech	W	34-24
Oct.	26	Oklahoma State	L	27-34
Nov.	9	at Oklahoma	L	41-42
Nov.	16	Texas	W	23-21
Nov.	23	Kansas	W	41-31
Nov.	30	at Kansas State	L	17-27
Dec.	28	vs. Notre Dame #	L	9-33

#Camping World Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	B12	NATIONAL
Scoring	32.2 ppg	5	39
Rushing	133.0 ypg	9	102
Passing	311.3 ypg	2	11
Total	444.3 ypg	5	27
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**B12**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	25.9 ppg	3	50
Rushing	139.5 ypg	4	47
Passing	229.8 ypg	5	72
Total	369.3 ypg	5	45
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**B12**	**NATIONAL**
-3	-0.23	7	86

2020 RECRUITS

1. Hunter Dekkers, QB, Hawarden, IA
2. Latrell Bankston, DT, Woodstock, GA*
3. Aidan Bouman, QB, Buffalo, MN
4. Cole Pedersen, LB, Leon, IA
5. Daniel Jackson, WR, Cibolo, TX
6. Hayden Pauls, OT, Emporia, KS
7. Tyler Miller, OT, Jefferson, IA
8. Johnny Wilson, DE, Kansas City, MO
9. Willis Singleton, DT, Gurnee, IL
10. Craig McDonald, S, Minneapolis, MN
11. Xavier Hutchinson, WR, Jacksonville, FL*
12. Brady Petersen, OT, Ankeny, IA
13. Mason Chambers, S, Schertz, TX
14. T.J. Tampa, WR, Saint Petersburg, FL
15. Michal Antoine, CB, Fort Lauderdale, FL
16. Sam Rengert, OT, Milford Center, OH
17. Aidan Bitter, WR, Lutz, FL
18. Jordyn Morgan, S, San Antonio, TX
19. Hunter Zenzen, LB, Barnesville, MN
20. Ar'Quel Smith, LB, Naples, FL
21. Anthony Smith, OG, Lakeland, FL
22. Koby Hathcock, LS, Mesa, AZ

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Iowa State Athletics

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	31.3	33
Defense	28.3	38
Margin	**+3.0**	**30**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	44.8%	41
Defense	40.8%	56
Margin	**+4.0%**	**46**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.4	17
Defense	5.4	44
Margin	**+1.0**	**20**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.7	50
Defense	4.4	60
Margin	**+0.3**	**50**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-2.8	85
Actual	-3	85
Margin	**-0.2**	**66**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

2.6%

Iowa State allowed a sack on just 2.6 percent of its offensive plays on passing downs (second-and-7 or longer, and third- or fourth-down-and-4 or longer). The Cyclones ranked third nationally and first in the Big 12 in such situations.

25.56%

Iowa State ran 896 offensive plays in 2019 and produced 229 plays of 10 yards or more, a rate of 25.56 percent that ranked second in the Big 12 and No. 8 nationally.

21.7%

Stuff rate is the percentage of carries in which a running back is stopped at or behind the line of scrimmage. Iowa State ball carriers posted a 21.7 percent stuff rate in 2019, which ranked No. 103 in the country.

college football players with 18.5 career sacks, which also ties Iowa State's career sack record.

Veterans Eyioma Uwazurike, Zach Petersen and Will McDonald are all quality options on the end.

Inside, Iowa State has to replace Ray Lima and Jamahl Johnson, but developmental players Isaiah Lee and Joshua Bailey should be able to fill some gaps. Keep an eye on the name Latrell Bankston, a mid-year enrollee who was considered one of the top interior junior college defensive linemen in the country last season.

Linebacker is solid. Mike Rose, O'Rien Vance and Jake Hummel have all produced in the past and should only get better. "All three of those guys are high-end football players," says Campbell.

Iowa State could play a bit of musical chairs in the secondary. The return of two-time All-Big 12 performer Greg Eisworth is a huge plus. He spent the majority of 2019 playing through an injury and is back to 100 percent. Young but experienced cornerbacks Anthony Johnson, Datrone Young and Tayvonn Kyle all have promising futures.

The names Isheem Young, Kym-Mani King and D.J. Miller are relatively new to Cyclone fans, but all are expected to make an impact in the secondary this season.

SPECIALISTS Iowa State is in good shape with veterans returning all over on special teams. Senior Connor Assalley will be the placekicker for the third straight season. There will be a punting competition between Joe Rivera, who handled the duties last season, and Corey Dunn, who suffered a season-ending injury last summer. Kene Nwangwu has the ability to be an elite kick return man.

FINAL ANALYSIS Consider this: Iowa State has been beaten by more than 14 points only once in its last 39 games — a 33–9 loss to Notre Dame in last season's Camping World Bowl. Heading into his fifth season at the helm, Campbell has gotten Iowa State to a point where its talent level isn't drastically behind the league's top-tier teams. Now, the Cyclones have to find a way to clear that final hurdle and compete for the Big 12 title.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (5)

WR	**1**	**Tarique Milton (Jr.)**	82	Landen Akers (Sr.)
WR	8	Xavier Hutchinson (Jr.)	9	Joe Scates (So.)
WR	2	Sean Shaw Jr. (So.)	17	Darren WIlson (Jr.)
LT	67	Grant Treiber (Fr.)	75	Sean Foster (Sr.)
LG	**52**	**Trevor Downing (So.)**	54	Jarrod Hufford (Fr.)
C	57	Colin Newell (Jr.)	64	Derek Schweiger (Jr.)
RG	77	Robert Hudson (Jr.)	55	Darrell Simmons (Fr.)
RT	76	Joey Ramos (So.)	72	Jake Remsburg (Fr.)
TE	**88**	**Charlie Kolar (Jr.)**	11	Chase Allen (Sr.)
QB	**15**	**Brock Purdy (Jr.)**	14	Aidan Bouman (Fr.)
RB	**28**	**Breece Hall (So.)**	21	Jirehl Brock (Fr.)

DEFENSE (9)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**3**	**JaQuan Bailey (Sr.)**	9	Will McDonald (So.)
NT	93	Isaiah Lee (So.)	56	Latrell Bankston (Jr.)
DT	**5**	**Eyioma Uwazurike (Sr.)**	90	Joshua Bailey (Sr.)
DE	**55**	**Zach Petersen (Jr.)**	95	Tucker Robertson (Jr.)
OLB	35	Jake Hummel (Sr.)	43	Dae'Shawn Davis (Fr.)
MLB	**34**	**O'Rien Vance (Jr.)**	32	Gerry Vaughn (So.)
OLB	**23**	**Mike Rose (Jr.)**	20	Aric Horne (Fr.)
CB	**26**	**Anthony Johnson (Jr.)**	19	Kym-Mani King (So.)
CB	**2**	**Datrone Young (Jr.)**	10	Tayvonn Kyle (So.)
SS	**12**	**Greg Eisworth (Sr.)**	4	Arnold Azunna (Sr.)
FS	**11**	**Lawrence White (Sr.)**	15	Isheem Young (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	96	Connor Assalley (Sr.)	**KR**	3	Kene Nwangwu (Sr.)
P	7	Joe Rivera (Sr.)	**PR**	82	Landen Akers (Sr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Brock Purdy	**475**	**312**	**3,982**	**27**	**9**
Deshaunte Jones	2	1	51	1	0
Re-al Mitchell	4	2	14	1	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Breece Hall	**186**	**897**	**4.8**	**9**
Brock Purdy	**93**	**249**	**2.7**	**8**
Johnnie Lang	**50**	**238**	**4.8**	**3**
Kene Nwangwu	**16**	**115**	**7.2**	**0**
Re-al Mitchell	11	100	9.1	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Deshaunte Jones	76	877	11.5	2
Tarique Milton	**35**	**722**	**20.6**	**3**
Charlie Kolar	**51**	**697**	**13.7**	**7**
La'Michael Pettway	55	676	12.3	6
Breece Hall	**23**	**252**	**11.0**	**1**

KICKING: **Connor Assalley, 15-19 FGs, 94 pts.**
TACKLES: Marcel Spears, 92; **Lawrence White, 84**
SACKS: **O'Rien Vance, 6.5**
INTERCEPTIONS: **Lawrence White, 2**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE CYCLONES

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP IOWA STATE

"The 2019 record is very deceiving on these guys. They played a ton of close games and lost most (2-4 in one-score games). That, and they had enough injuries where you can throw out the win/loss when you're evaluating what Matt (Campbell) did. ... Defensively they've been fantastic, especially when you consider their depth and the natural problem of playing in this conference. It's tremendous, really. Their linebackers pop, the three-man front has worked really well for them. It's great coaching. Greg Eisworth makes them totally different. He's the guy who makes them go, and when he was hurt they were at a huge disadvantage in terms of scheme. If he comes back the way he was in '18, they could be a force. ... (Brock) Purdy is a lot like (Sam) Ehlinger at Texas — tough, finds contact, great leader. He's got enough gambler in him to take chances, but they're the right chances. They extend plays on you; a lot of that is because they do as well with tight ends as anyone in the nation. ... You can really tell Matt has established a new identity. They have new traditions, a new mindset that's different than anything we've seen from Iowa State before. ... If this team stays healthy, they could make a run and surprise a lot of people outside the Big 12."

KANSAS Jayhawks

National Forecast: **106** · Big 12 Prediction: **10** · Projected Record: **2-10, 0-9 Big 12**

Pooka Williams Jr.

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Les Miles
Record at School: 3-9 (1 year)
Career Record: 145–64 (16+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Brent Dearmon
Defensive Coordinator: D.J. Eliot
Location: Lawrence, KS
Stadium: Memorial Stadium (47,000)

KEY JAYHAWKS

POOKA WILLIAMS JR., RB Dynamic playmaker is KU's first offensive player to earn first-team All-Big 12 status in consecutive seasons.

ANDREW PARCHMENT, WR Posted top-five league marks in both catches (65) and receiving yards per game (69.3).

STEPHON ROBINSON JR., WR Emerged as big-play threat for KU last season; his eight receiving TDs tied for fourth in the conference.

KEY LOSSES

CARTER STANLEY, QB His 37 career TD passes are second in KU history, and he's one of only five Jayhawks to throw for 5,000 yards.

HAKEEM ADENIJI, OL Left tackle started all 48 games in his four years and was an All-Big 12 second-team selection as a senior.

BRYCE TORNEDEN, S Team captain was a three-year starter for the Jayhawks and finished second on the team in tackles in 2019.

RISING STAR

Though Pooka Williams Jr. is the leading man in KU's backfield, don't be surprised if sophomore **VELTON GARDNER** emerges in 2020 as well. Offensive coordinator Brent Dearmon has stated his belief that the Jayhawks have two true home-run threats at the position.

Head coach Les Miles managed three wins in his first season at Kansas — that tied for the program's top mark of the decade — but there's reason to think the Jayhawks may not match that number in 2020. In the offseason, Miles made the painful (but correct) decision not to go for a quick fix in recruiting; KU, which has been dealing with a scholarship-player discrepancy for years, signed all freshmen in its 2020 class — a positive step for the overall health of the program.

That could result in huge growing pains this season, though. KU has major holes to fill, and it didn't replenish with many ready-now additions.

In essence, Miles chose to pay the bill for the previous sins of former coaches Charlie Weis and David Beaty, who too often gambled on juco players while thinning out KU's available talent pool. Miles is trying to build the foundation in a sound manner, but doing that means 2020 is likely to be an even bigger challenge than 2019.

OFFENSE KU's offense took off in 2019 with the midseason promotion of Brent Dearmon to offensive coordinator. Dearmon, known for his expertise in run-pass option, led the Jayhawks to 48 points at Texas, 37 against Texas Tech and 31 at Iowa State but just a combined 29 in losses to Kansas State, Oklahoma State and Baylor. "There was no in between," Dearmon said. "When 9 (starting quarterback Carter Stanley) was playing at his top game, you felt like nobody could stop us."

KU will have to replace Stanley — he just completed one of the Jayhawks' most productive seasons in years — and the options are unproven. After KU missed out on Florida graduate transfer Feleipe Franks — he eventually chose Arkansas — the remaining front-runners are junior Miles Kendrick and senior Thomas MacVittie. Those two combined for just one pass attempt in 2019, with Kendrick playing four games for the Jayhawks the previous year. Expect competition for the starting job to continue into fall camp.

The Jayhawks' greatest strength is at the skill positions. Junior Pooka Williams Jr. is one of the nation's most dynamic running backs, a two-time first-team all-conference selection who led the nation in forced missed tackle percentage against eight-plus in the box, according to Pro Football Focus. Backup Velton Gardner showed flashes in 26 carries as well, breaking off a 45-yard touchdown run at TCU and a 32-yard score against Texas Tech.

KU's deepest group is receiver. Andrew Parchment and Stephon Robinson Jr. return as top-10 players in the Big 12 at their position, while Kwamie Lassiter II, Takulve Williams and Ezra Naylor II have breakout potential.

Dearmon admits KU will be less experienced on the offensive line, with the biggest immediate concern coming at left tackle — the spot that four-year starter Hakeem Adeniji occupied most of his KU career.

DEFENSE Defensive coordinator D.J. Eliot says that the No. 1 goal in a rebuild is always to get guys to tackle and compete. He felt KU's defense accomplished that

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	New Hampshire
Sept.	12	at Baylor
Sept.	19	Boston College
Sept.	26	at Coastal Carolina
Oct.	3	Iowa State
Oct.	10	at Kansas State
Oct.	17	Oklahoma State
Oct.	24	at West Virginia
Nov.	7	Texas
Nov.	14	at Texas Tech
Nov.	21	at Oklahoma
Nov.	28	TCU

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 3-9, 1-8 BIG 12

Aug.	31	Indiana State	W	24-17
Sept.	7	Coastal Carolina	L	7-12
Sept.	13	at Boston College	W	48-24
Sept.	21	West Virginia	L	24-29
Sept.	28	at TCU	L	14-51
Oct.	5	Oklahoma	L	20-45
Oct.	19	at Texas	L	48-50
Oct.	26	Texas Tech	W	37-34
Nov.	2	Kansas State	L	10-38
Nov.	16	at Oklahoma State	L	13-31
Nov.	23	at Iowa State	L	31-41
Nov.	30	Baylor	L	6-61

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	BIG 12	NATIONAL
Scoring	23.5 ppg	9	100
Rushing	145.8 ypg	8	86
Passing	231.5 ypg	7	66
Total	377.3 ypg	8	90
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**BIG 12**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	36.1 ppg	10	120
Rushing	225.7 ypg	10	124
Passing	249.5 ypg	7	98
Total	475.2 ypg	9	122
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**BIG 12**	**NATIONAL**
-12	-1.00	10	125

2020 RECRUITS

1. Jacobee Bryant, CB, Evergreen, AL
2. Lawrence Arnold, WR, DeSoto, TX
3. Duece Mayberry, CB, Owasso, OK
4. Krishawn Brown, LB, Tulsa, OK
5. Taiwan Berryhill, LB, New Orleans, LA
6. Kenean Caldwell, DT, Oak Grove, LA
7. Will Huggins, TE, Overland Park, KS
8. Steven McBride, WR, Gonzales, LA
9. Johnquai Lewis, ATH, Hialeah, FL
10. Trevor Kardell, TE, Lee's Summitt, MO
11. Alonso Person, LB, Harbor City, CA
12. Clinton Anokwuru, DE, Richmond, TX
13. Tristan Golightly, WR, Mesquite, TX
14. Karon Prunty, CB, Portsmouth, VA
15. Malik Johnson, WR, The Woodlands, TX
16. Caleb Taylor, DE, Kansas City, MO
17. Armaj Adams-Reed, OT, DeSoto, TX
18. Ra'Mello Dotson, CB, Daytona Beach, FL
19. Jackson Satterwhite, OT, Miami, OK
20. Daniel Hishaw Jr., ATH, Moore, OK
21. Luke Grimm, WR, Peculiar, MO
22. Nicholas Martinez, OT, Anaheim, CA
23. Garrett Jones, OG, Berrien Springs, MI
24. Jalon Daniels, QB, Lawndale, CA
25. Bryce Cabeldue, OT, Clovis, NM
26. Kyler Pearson, WR, Tulsa, OK

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Jeff & Laura Jacobsen/Kansas Athletics

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	27.8	109
Defense	31.2	109
Margin	**-3.4**	**114**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	40.5%	86
Defense	48.7%	128
Margin	**-8.2%**	**118**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.9	60
Defense	6.2	100
Margin	**-0.3**	**85**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.4	76
Defense	4.7	89
Margin	**-0.3**	**85**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-2.5	83
Actual	-12	125
Margin	**-9.5**	**127**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

11.87%

Havoc rate is the percentage of plays in which a defense records a forced fumble, interception, pass breakup or tackle for loss. Kansas, which created havoc plays on just 11.87 percent of snaps last season, ranked last among all Power 5 defenses and No. 126 overall.

25.5%

Stuff rate is the percentage of carries in which running backs are held to either zero or negative yardage. Kansas ball carriers were stuffed 25.5 percent of the time last season, which was the second-highest rate in the Big 12 and No. 127 on the FBS leaderboard.

-0.19

Expected Points Added is a quantitative measure of the impact of a single play based on down, distance and yard line. Kansas ranked last in the Big 12 and No. 125 nationally in Defensive EPA, -0.19 per play.

in 2019. "I don't know if there was an opposing team that would say, 'They don't play hard,'" Eliot says. Now, the objective is to refine the execution. Eliot says that was KU's biggest issue as it allowed a league-worst 36.1 points per game. "Sometimes we had a guy going right and he should have been going left," Eliot says. "And so that's the next step that we're building on."

On paper, though, it's tough to envision KU improving too much based on the number of inexperienced players who will have to take on leading roles. The Jayhawks lost almost all of their contributing defensive linemen from last season, and they'll also be thin at outside linebacker, where former top recruit Steven Parker will need to emerge after playing four games and redshirting in 2019.

KU could receive a big boost if the NCAA grants Dru Prox a sixth year of eligibility; the inside linebacker was the Jayhawks' best defensive player for four games in 2019 before sustaining a shoulder injury that ended his season. Eliot is also bullish on Gavin Potter, a sophomore who was forced into playing time as a true freshman following Prox's departure. "It was sink or swim, right?" Eliot says. "I think he came out swimming, so it's going to help us down the road."

KU also has question marks in the secondary, where it lost talented players in Bryce Torneden, Mike Lee and Hasan Defense. Fifth-year senior Kyle Mayberry should be a stabilizing force at corner, while Kenny Logan Jr. is a name to watch if he makes the expected switch from corner to safety.

SPECIALISTS KU has a top punter in Kyle Thompson, who needs to improve his consistency but has shown the potential for booming kicks. Liam Jones is the incumbent at placekicker, though his accuracy was poor on both PATs and field goals in 2019.

FINAL ANALYSIS KU does have a friendly non-conference schedule, with winnable games against New Hampshire, Boston College and Coastal Carolina. The Jayhawks are likely to be double-digit underdogs in all their Big 12 matchups, though, a reality of the coaching staff's decision to work at a talent discrepancy — for now — with the hope of building for the future.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**5**	**Stephon Robinson Jr. (Sr.)**	16	Takulve Williams (Jr.)
WR	8	Kwamie Lassiter II (Sr.)	88	Jamahl Horne (So.)
WR	**4**	**Andrew Parchment (Sr.)**	11	Ezra Naylor II (Sr.)
LT	68	Earl Bostick Jr. (Jr.)	70	Nick Williams (So.)
LG	**61**	**Malik Clark (Sr.)**	71	Jacobi Lott (So.)
C	58	Api Mane (Sr.)	62	Garrett Jones (Fr.)
RG	72	Adagio Lopeti (Sr.)	**76**	**Chris Hughes (Sr.)**
RT	75	Antione Frazier (Sr.)	59	Jack Murphy (So.)
TE	**87**	**Jack Luavasa (Sr.)**	89	Mason Fairchild (So.)
QB	3	Miles Kendrick (Jr.)	7	Thomas MacVittie (Sr.)
RB	**1**	**Pooka Williams Jr. (Jr.)**	18	Velton Gardner (So.)

DEFENSE (3)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**98**	**Caleb Sampson (Jr.)**	91	Jelani Arnold (Jr.)
DT	93	Sam Burt (Sr.)	95	DaJon Terry (Fr.)
DE	99	Malcolm Lee (Jr.)	50	Marcus Harris (Fr.)
OLB	14	Steven Parker Fr.)	**15**	**Kyron Johnson (Sr.)**
MLB	**19**	**Gavin Potter (So.)**	30	Cooper Root (Jr.)
MLB	40	Dru Prox (Sr.)	43	Jay Dineen (Jr.)
CB	17	Elijah Jones (Sr.)	6	Valerian Agbaw Jr. (Fr.)
CB	8	Kyle Mayberry (Sr.)	9	Karon Prunty (Fr.)
S	7	Davon Ferguson (Jr.)	24	Ricky Thomas (Sr.)
S	1	Kenny Logan Jr. (So.)	10	Julian Chandler (Sr.)
S	34	Nate Betts (Sr.)	35	Nick Caudle (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	46	Liam Jones (Sr.)	**KR**	88	Jamahl Horne (So.)
P	80	Kyle Thompson (Sr.)	**PR**	8	Kwamie Lassiter II (Sr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Carter Stanley	371	226	2,664	24	11
Manny Miles	17	9	114	1	2
Thomas MacVittie	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Pooka Williams Jr.	**203**	**1,061**	**5.2**	**3**
Khalil Herbert	43	384	8.9	2
Velton Gardner	**26**	**138**	**5.3**	**2**
Carter Stanley	67	68	1.0	1
Dom Williams	20	63	3.2	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Andrew Parchment	**65**	**831**	**12.8**	**7**
Stephon Robinson Jr.	**45**	**727**	**16.2**	**8**
Kwamie Lassiter II	**34**	**352**	**10.4**	**1**
Daylon Charlot	33	413	12.5	2
Pooka Williams Jr.	**27**	**214**	**7.9**	**2**

KICKING: **Liam Jones, 11-18 FGs, 59 pts.**
TACKLES: Mike Lee, 72; Bryce Torneden, 71
SACKS: Azur Kamara, 4.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Najee Stevens-McKenzie, 2

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE JAYHAWKS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP KANSAS

"The good news is that they're advancing on offense. The biggest change for them in 2020 is that they changed OCs on the bye last year, and now you're seeing something that can win games in this league. There were some serious questions about how Les (Miles) would tamper with the offense. So far I'd say he isn't holding them back. That adjustment worked. Ask Texas. … Brent Dearmon spent time with Gus Malzahn, he knows how to play-call. You saw them start to go up-tempo more and more throughout the season. They'll probably do more of that going in this year. … Straight up, Pooka (Williams) is a dude. He's an issue for any defense. That guy jumps off the film and starts for almost every other team in the country. … You can see the defense getting better slowly, but it's still about recruiting. They're maybe two classes away from lining up a front seven you could compete against these offenses with. Losing (assistant coach) Clint Bowen was really strange to me. He's been a constant in that program for so long. He was their identity for a long time. I wouldn't be surprised if they're aggressive with the portal and find grad transfers to plug in. … Right now they're heading in a positive direction. There was a little bit of that with (David) Beaty's last year right before they fired him, but this could be bigger."

KANSAS STATE Wildcats

National Forecast: **46** · Big 12 Prediction: **7** · Projected Record: **7-5, 4-5 Big 12**

Skylar Thompson

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Chris Klieman
Record at School: 8–5 (1 year)
Career Record: 80–18 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Courtney Messingham
Defensive Coordinator: Joe Klanderman
Location: Manhattan, KS
Stadium: Bill Snyder Family Stadium (50,000)

KEY WILDCATS

SKYLAR THOMPSON, QB A dual threat for the Wildcats who did a little of everything last season, amassing 2,720 yards of total offense and 23 touchdowns.

JUSTIN HUGHES, LB The heart and soul of K-State's defense is ready for his senior season after missing out on last year with a torn ACL.

WYATT HUBERT, DE The first-team All-Big 12 defender should be one of the nation's top pass rushers.

KEY LOSSES

DENZEL GOOLSBY, DB The quarterback of K-State's secondary ranked second on the team with 64 tackles last season.

JAMES GILBERT, RB He played with the Wildcats for only one season, but he made a big impact as a graduate transfer.

DALTON SCHOEN, WR He led K-State with 37 catches for 579 yards and four touchdowns as a senior.

RISING STAR

There are few players Chris Klieman likes more than a versatile tight end. Fans will want to keep an eye on **WILL SWANSON** as he makes his debut. The 6'5", 240-pound freshman from Papillion, Neb., impressed during winter workouts and should be ready to contribute right away.

After years of championship football at North Dakota State, Chris Klieman proved his system could also produce victories in the Big 12 during his debut season at Kansas State. The Wildcats surpassed all expectations by winning eight games with Klieman as their new head coach last year.

Now it's time for Klieman to prove he can sustain winning seasons at a Power 5 level. That might be a challenge considering all the key players K-State lost during the offseason. The Wildcats said goodbye to 28 seniors, 15 of whom were starters.

But K-State's roster isn't void of talent. The Wildcats will look to reload more than rebuild behind the leadership of senior quarterback Skylar Thompson and senior linebacker Justin Hughes.

External expectations will be mixed for K-State next season, but they will once again be high in Manhattan. They always are when Klieman is involved.

OFFENSE All eyes will be on Thompson as he closes out his college career as a four-year starter. It seems like just yesterday that injuries thrust Thompson into action as a freshman, when he led K-State to a bowl game. He has grown considerably on and off the field since then. His evolution was most noticeable last season, as he guided the Wildcats to eight victories and a trip to the Liberty Bowl by throwing for 2,315 yards, running for 405 yards and accounting for 23 total touchdowns. Klieman has praised him at every turn, saying he has what it takes to follow in the footsteps of Carson Wentz and Easton Stick, the coach's two best signal callers at NDSU.

Thompson's challenge this season will be learning to take a few more chances in the passing game and get young playmakers like Joshua Youngblood and Malik Knowles more involved. K-State might be able to utilize its tight ends in a more versatile way following the offseason acquisition of Briley Moore. The Northern Iowa graduate transfer topped 1,000 receiving yards with the Panthers and should provide an extra threat in the passing game that was missing last year.

At running back, Harry Trotter, Jacardia Wright and Joe Ervin will likely split carries.

There are several questions about who will block, though. K-State lost all five of its starters on the offensive line to graduation, meaning the Wildcats will look completely different up front. Offensive coordinator Courtney Messingham is hopeful that new faces like Josh Rivas, Cooper Beebe and Noah Johnson will rise to the occasion and continue to pave the way for his run-oriented attack.

If that's the case, K-State may well improve on offense next season. But only Rivas has seen significant playing time on the offensive line. For now, it's a question mark.

DEFENSE Hughes was supposed to be the heart and soul of K-State's defense last season, but the versatile linebacker missed every game after suffering a torn ACL during spring practice. He will get another chance this year after receiving a medical redshirt.

That is excellent news for the Wildcats, as he was the

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Buffalo
Sept.	12	North Dakota
Sept.	19	Vanderbilt
Sept.	26	at West Virginia
Oct.	3	Texas
Oct.	10	Kansas
Oct.	17	at TCU
Oct.	29	at Iowa State
Nov.	7	Texas Tech
Nov.	14	at Oklahoma
Nov.	21	Oklahoma State
Nov.	28	at Baylor

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5, 5-4 BIG 12

Aug.	31	Nicholls	W	49-14
Sept.	7	Bowling Green	W	52-0
Sept.	14	at Mississippi State	W	31-24
Sept.	28	at Oklahoma State	L	13-26
Oct.	5	Baylor	L	12-31
Oct.	19	TCU	W	24-17
Oct.	26	Oklahoma	W	48-41
Nov.	2	at Kansas	W	38-10
Nov.	9	at Texas	L	24-27
Nov.	16	West Virginia	L	20-24
Nov.	23	at Texas Tech	W	30-27
Nov.	30	Iowa State	W	27-17
Dec.	31	vs. Navy #	L	17-20

#Liberty Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	BIG 12	NATIONAL
Scoring	29.6 ppg	8	61
Rushing	178.0 ypg	4	47
Passing	180.9 ypg	10	108
Total	358.9 ypg	9	103
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**BIG 12**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	21.4 ppg	2	27
Rushing	165.5 ypg	8	76
Passing	202.9 ypg	2	33
Total	368.4 ypg	4	44
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**BIG 12**	**NATIONAL**
+1	+0.08	4	57

2020 RECRUITS

1. Kirmari Gainous, DE, Tallahassee, FL*
2. Nate Matlack, DE, Olathe, KS
3. Talor Warner, OG, Gardner, KS
4. Jay Harris, LB, Pearland, TX
5. Will Swanson, TE, Papillion, NE
6. Will Howard, QB, Downingtown, PA
7. Tee Denson, CB, Ellenwood, GA
8. Robert Hentz II, DT, Batesville, MS*
9. Carver Willis, OT, Durango, CO
10. TJ Smith, CB, Powder Springs, GA
11. Deuce Vaughn, RB, Round Rock, TX
12. Cody Stufflebean, ATH, McPherson, KS
13. Malachi Mitchell, S, Mansfield, TX
14. DeMarrquese Hayes, LB, Waco, TX
15. Witt Mitchum, OT, McKenzie, TN
16. Ronald Triplette, DE, Pearland, TX
17. Sam Shields, OG, Manhattan, KS
18. Tyrone Taleni, DE, Savaii, Am. Samoa*
19. Derick Newton, DT, Douglas, GA*
20. Keyon Mozee, ATH, Lee's Summit, MO
21. Justin Gardner, CB, Snellville, GA*
22. Dawson Delforge, OG, Wamego, KS*
23. Hadley Panzer, C, Lakin, KS
24. Aamaris Brown, S, Seffner, FL
25. Christian Moore, TE, Huntington Beach, CA
26. Jaelon Travis, WR, Arlington, TX
27. Felix Anudike, DE, Lee's Summit, MO

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

K-State Athletics

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	30.1	52
Defense	28.1	34
Margin	**+2.0**	**45**

Efficiency[2]		Rank
Offense	42.8%	63
Defense	40.5%	53
Margin	**+2.3%**	**58**

Explosiveness[3]		Rank
Offense	5.5	84
Defense	6.2	101
Margin	**-0.7**	**102**

Finishing Drives[4]		Rank
Offense	4.8	39
Defense	4.3	47
Margin	**+0.5**	**38**

Adjusted TO Margin[5]		Rank
Projected	-2.8	84
Actual	1	53
Margin	**+3.8**	**32**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

28.0%

The Wildcats ranked among the FBS leaders in third-down defense. K-State allowed just 42 conversions on 150 third-down plays last season, a 28.0 percent rate that led the Big 12 and ranked second in the country.

96.2%

Kansas State didn't often squander scoring opportunities in 2019. In fact, the Wildcats scored 35 touchdowns and kicked 15 field goals across 52 trips into the red zone last season, a 96.2 percent scoring rate that led the country.

97.06%

Likewise, Kansas State couldn't stop anyone from scoring inside the red zone. The Wildcats made just one stop inside its own 20-yard line, allowing 18 touchdowns and 15 field goals in 34 opportunities — a 97.06 percent scoring rate that ranked dead last in the country.

team's top overall defender near the end of 2018, finishing the season with 56 tackles.

Klieman loves what he has coming back at linebacker with Elijah Sullivan and Hughes, especially with capable tacklers Daniel Green and Cody Fletcher providing depth behind them.

But it's not all perfect news for this side of the ball. K-State lost its defensive coordinator, Scottie Hazelton, to Michigan State. The Wildcats showed promise under him last season, ranking second in the Big 12 in points allowed per game (21.4) and fourth in yards allowed per game (368.4). Klieman decided to replace him by promoting defensive backs coach Joe Klanderman.

That will provide some continuity in the coaching box, especially after the secondary was the strength of K-State's defense last season, allowing only 202.9 passing yards per game.

But the Wildcats will need to find some answers on the defensive line and in the secondary. Wyatt Hubert returns after a stellar sophomore season at defensive end, but the Wildcats will be without Reggie Walker, Trey Dishon and Jordan Mittie up front. Hubert will need help so he can avoid double teams as a pass rusher.

The Wildcats must also replace longtime starter Denzel Goolsby at free safety and Kevion McGee at cornerback.

SPECIALISTS It will be interesting to see how often opposing teams are brave enough to kick the ball to Joshua Youngblood in return situations. Youngblood was electric as a returner during his freshman season at K-State, returning three kicks for touchdowns and emerging as the top home-run threat in the conference.

K-State will also be solid on field goals with Blake Lynch returning. He connected on 19-of-21 kicks last season. Punter will be a question mark. All signs point to Ty Zentner taking over for Devin Anctil, but Anctil was one of the top punters in the Big 12, if not the nation, last year.

FINAL ANALYSIS K-State is blessed with a favorable schedule that will provide an opportunity to pile up early victories. Things will get more difficult as the season progresses, but a hot start with a veteran QB could build momentum and help the Cats keep winning as they contend for another top-three finish in the Big 12.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (2)

WR	**4**	**Malik Knowles (So.)**	12	Landry Weber (Jr.)
WR	23	Joshua Youngblood (So.)	88	Phillip Brooks (So.)
WR	21	Wykeen Gill (Sr.)	1	Keenan Garber (Fr.)
LT	50	Cooper Beebe (Fr.)	70	Kaitori Leveston (So.)
LG	76	Josh Rivas (Jr.)	71	Logan Long (Jr.)
C	69	Noah Johnson (Sr.)	78	Marshall Kellner (So.)
RG	63	Ben Adler (Jr.)	52	Taylor Poitier (Fr.)
RT	73	Christian Duffie (So.)	75	Tre Eaton (Fr.)
TE		Briley Moore (Sr.)	87	Nick Lenners (Jr.)
QB	**10**	**Skylar Thompson (Sr.)**	17	Nick Ast (Jr.)
RB	2	Harry Trotter (Sr.)	28	Jacardia Wright (Fr.)

DEFENSE (7)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**56**	**Wyatt Hubert (Jr.)**	29	Khalid Duke (So.)
DT	90	Bronson Massie (Sr.)	58	Cartez Crook-Jones (So.)
DT	59	Drew Wiley (Sr.)	92	Eli Huggins (Jr.)
DE	93	Jaylen Pickle (So.)	94	Matthew Pola-Mao (Fr.)
MLB	**32**	**Justin Hughes (Sr.)**	55	Cody Fletcher (Sr.)
OLB	**3**	**Elijah Sullivan (Sr.)**	22	Daniel Green (So.)
CB	**12**	**AJ Parker (Sr.)**	2	Lance Robinson (So.)
CB	**15**	**Walter Neil Jr. (Sr.)**	8	Tee Denson (Fr.)
NB	**31**	**Jahron McPherson (Sr.)**	14	Tyrone Lewis (Fr.)
SS	**4**	**Wayne Jones (So.)**	19	Ross Elder (Jr.)
FS	17	Jonathan Alexander (Sr.)	24	Brock Monty (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	10	Blake Lynch (Sr.)	**KR**	23	Joshua Youngblood (So.)
P	8	Ty Zentner (Jr.)	**PR**	4	Malik Knowles (So.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Skylar Thompson	**297**	**177**	**2,315**	**12**	**5**
Nick Ast	**3**	**3**	**28**	**0**	**0**
John Holcombe II	3	1	9	0	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
James Gilbert	141	737	5.2	6
Skylar Thompson	**114**	**405**	**3.6**	**11**
Jordon Brown	84	380	4.5	4
Harry Trotter	**66**	**263**	**4.0**	**3**
Tyler Burns	**26**	**148**	**5.7**	**2**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Dalton Schoen	37	579	15.6	4
Malik Knowles	**27**	**397**	**14.7**	**3**
Phillip Brooks	**26**	**253**	**9.7**	**1**
Wykeen Gill	**16**	**273**	**17.1**	**2**
Jordon Brown	14	138	9.9	0

KICKING: **Blake Lynch, 19-21 FGs, 103 pts.**
TACKLES: **Elijah Sullivan, 65**; Denzel Goolsby, 64
SACKS: **Wyatt Hubert, 7.0**
INTERCEPTIONS: **AJ Parker, 3**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE WILDCATS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP KANSAS STATE

"You have to hand it to Chris Klieman. I'm not sure a lot of us knew what to expect going in with those guys, and now that seems kind of stupid. He's a championship coach from NDSU, and he carried that in. ... Championship football means assignment-sound. They're very smart and play very hard. That's the idea: Don't beat yourself, be patient, be aggressive, wear them down and find your spots. ... They can build with Skylar Thompson. He made a lot of third-down plays with his legs, and they need that versatility. He just has to do more. They really want the kids to embrace that NDSU thing. Get physical up front, be blue collar, let that compensate. The defense is sort of tricky. You turn on the film, and you think they're good but not exceptional at any one thing, but they were the best third-down defense in the league last year. They're changing coordinators and getting most of their starters back. They could make a jump this year. The defensive end (Wyatt Hubert) is one to watch. He's an explosive pass rusher, maybe the best in the league right now. ... It's Chris' team now, but yeah, there's some Bill Snyder in their DNA. I think that's the smart thing to do at K State. Snyder's blueprint is great. The encouraging thing for K-State is that we didn't see them change anything unnecessarily."

OKLAHOMA Sooners

National Forecast: **4** · Big 12 Prediction: **1** · Projected Record: **12-1, 8-1 Big 12**

Kennedy Brooks

For the first time in his ultra-successful (albeit short) stint as Oklahoma head coach, Lincoln Riley won't open the season with a celebrated veteran quarterback.

Will it matter?

Riley's three-year run in charge of the Sooners features a 36–6 record and an annual place in the College Football Playoff.

All three seasons have ultimately ended in disappointment: CFP semifinal losses, preventing Oklahoma from posting its first national championship since 2000. But they all featured plenty of thrills, too, including Heisman Trophy winners in Baker Mayfield and Kyler Murray, as well as the Heisman runner-up a year ago in Jalen Hurts.

This year's starting QB, whether it's Spencer Rattler or Tanner Mordecai, will be taking his first meaningful college snap. That's different, yet exciting, for Riley.

"These guys are ready," Riley says. "They're good enough, they're talented enough. It's their time."

OFFENSE While Riley wasn't close to naming a starter before spring practices were shut down due to coronavirus concerns, many expect Rattler to win the job as a redshirt freshman.

A former five-star recruit and the consensus No. 1 quarterback in the country as a prep star in Phoenix, Rattler passed for an Arizona state high school-record 11,083 yards and 116 touchdowns during a dominant career.

Mordecai redshirted in 2018 and then served as the primary backup a year ago, completing 16-of-26 passes for 207 yards and two touchdowns. Like Rattler, he was a premium recruit (out of Waco, Texas).

The shortened spring will create urgency in identifying who's No. 1 in August. "Nobody's promised anything, nobody's given anything, they have to earn it." Riley says. "Quarterback position's no different."

Also pressing, the Sooners are looking for a go-to receiver, after CeeDee Lamb left for the NFL as a Biletnikoff Award finalist and consensus first-team All-American. Lamb averaged 102.1 receiving yards per game, nearly twice the output of Charleston Rambo, who's expected to fill the void. Lamb's 14 TD receptions were more than any other four Sooner receivers combined. UCLA transfer Theo Howard and talented H-back Jeremiah Hall will likely fill key roles, especially after the loss of Jadon Haselwood to an offseason knee injury.

Running back Kennedy Brooks isn't flashy, but he's efficient, rushing for 1,011 yards in 2019. The ground game took a hit, though, when Trey Sermon left for Ohio State.

The offensive line is a strength, offering comfort for the young quarterbacks. Four starters return up front, led by elite, physical center Creed Humphrey, the Big 12's Co-Offensive Lineman of the Year and one of three finalists for the Rimington Trophy.

DEFENSE As the Sooners posted their fifth straight Big 12 title and advanced into the CFP, again, many hailed the defense as new and improved under first-year coordinator Alex Grinch, with stats to back it up.

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Lincoln Riley
Record at School: 36-6 (3 years)
Career Record: 36-6 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinators: Bill Bedenbaugh, Cale Gundy
Defensive Coordinator: Alex Grinch
Location: Norman, OK
Stadium: Oklahoma Memorial Stadium (86,112)

KEY SOONERS

SPENCER RATTLER/TANNER MORDECAI, QB The kids are in charge. The winner of the job will be expected to post huge numbers.

CHARLESTON RAMBO, WR His 43 catches for 743 yards and five touchdowns a year ago were solid. Now more is expected.

DASHAUN WHITE, LB Played a great sidekick to stud Kenneth Murray with 51 tackles in 2019 and could be the next great linebacker.

KEY LOSSES

JALEN HURTS, QB Hurts joined the Sooners and thrived running and passing, with a combined 5,149 yards and 52 TDs.

CEEDEE LAMB, WR Finished second at OU in TD catches, third in receiving yards and sixth in receptions for a career — in only three years.

KENNETH MURRAY, LB Led the Sooners with 102 tackles and 17 tackles for a loss as an All-Big 12 performer.

RISING STAR

WOODI WASHINGTON signed as a consensus top-100 recruit out of Murfreesboro, Tenn., played four games and made an impression as a true freshman late, recording 10 tackles in the CFP semifinal loss to LSU. He'll challenge for a starting secondary spot.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Missouri State
Sept.	12	Tennessee
Sept.	26	at Army
Oct.	3	Baylor
Oct.	10	vs. Texas #
Oct.	17	at Iowa State
Oct.	24	Oklahoma State
Oct.	31	at TCU
Nov.	7	at West Virginia
Nov.	14	Kansas State
Nov.	21	Kansas
Nov.	28	at Texas Tech

#Dallas

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 12-2, 8-1 BIG 12

Sept.	1	Houston	W	49-31
Sept.	7	South Dakota	W	70-14
Sept.	15	at UCLA	W	48-14
Sept.	28	Texas Tech	W	55-16
Oct.	5	at Kansas	W	45-20
Oct.	12	vs. Texas #	W	34-27
Oct.	19	West Virginia	W	52-14
Oct.	26	at Kansas State	L	41-48
Nov.	9	Iowa State	W	42-41
Nov.	16	at Baylor	W	34-31
Nov.	23	TCU	W	28-24
Nov.	30	at Oklahoma State	W	34-16
Dec.	7	vs. Baylor % (ot)	W	30-23
Dec.	28	vs. LSU &	L	28-63

#Dallas %Arlington &Peach Bowl: CFB Playoff Semifinal

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	BIG 12	NATIONAL
Scoring	42.1 ppg	1	6
Rushing	240.2 ypg	1	14
Passing	297.4 ypg	3	18
Total	537.6 ypg	1	3
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**BIG 12**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	27.3 ppg	6	64
Rushing	134.1 ypg	1	32
Passing	222.4 ypg	4	58
Total	356.4 ypg	2	38
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**BIG 12**	**NATIONAL**
-8	-0.57	9	109

2020 RECRUITS

1. Nate Anderson, OG, Frisco, TX
2. Andrew Raym, OG, Broken Arrow, OK
3. Reggie Grimes, DE, Brentwood, TN
4. Seth McGowan, RB, Mesquite, TX
5. Marvin Mims, WR, Frisco, TX
6. Anton Harrison, OT, Washington, DC
7. Aaryn Parks, OG, Fort Washington, MD
8. Jalin Conyers, TE, Gruver, TX
9. Bryson Washington, S, Houston, TX
10. Perrion Winfrey, DT, Roselle, IL*
11. Mikey Henderson, ATH, Carrollton, TX
12. Kendall Dennis, CB, Lakeland, FL
13. Joshua Eaton, CB, Houston, TX
14. Justin Harrington, S, Bakersfield, CA
15. Shane Whitter, LB, Burlington, NC
16. Chandler Morris, QB, Dallas, TX
17. Davon Graham II, ATH, Keller, TX
18. Joshua Ellison, DT, Brenham, TX
19. Noah Nelson, OT, Gilbert, AZ
20. Noah Arinze, DE, Saint Louis, MO
21. Brynden Walker, LB, Oklahoma City, OK
22. Trevon West, WR, Arlington, TX
23. Brian Darby, WR, College Station, TX

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Peter Brouillet

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	28.7	90
Defense	28.8	51
Margin	**-0.1**	**72**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	53.6%	4
Defense	40.7%	55
Margin	**+12.9%**	**7**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	8.0	1
Defense	5.6	63
Margin	**+2.4**	**6**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	5.6	2
Defense	5.0	106
Margin	**+0.6**	**33**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	1.0	58
Actual	-8	110
Margin	**-9.0**	**124**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

20.53%

Oklahoma gained 10 yards or more on 116 of its 565 rushing attempts in 2019, a rate of 20.53 percent, which was the best in the nation.

29.07%

In all, 275 of the Sooners' 946 offensive snaps gained 10 yards or more, an FBS-best 29.07 percent.

93.75%

Oklahoma allowed its opponents to reach the red zone 48 times in 2019, and the Sooners gave up points on 45 of them (32 touchdowns and 13 field goals). The 93.75 percent scoring rate Oklahoma allowed was the second worst in the Big 12 and ranked No. 128 overall.

Then they were torched for 63 points and 693 total yards by LSU in the semifinal, much of it coming in a first half that created a blowout and another layer of anguish for Sooner fans.

Oklahoma, while better statistically, also lagged in takeaways, finishing at No. 121 nationally.

Those questions now carry into 2020. And the Sooners must replace key figures, including leading tackler and tone-setter Kenneth Murray at linebacker. A new starter is needed up front, along with a replacement for top coverage man Parnell Motley at corner.

There are positives on the defense, including nine starters returning, plus a full season of linebacker Caleb Kelly, who missed the first 10 games last year with an injury.

Potential star power exists with linemen Ronnie Perkins — although he's facing the possibility of a suspension that could carry into the season — juco transfer Perrion Winfrey and redshirt sophomores Jalen Redmond and Jordan Kelley. DaShaun White, a starter at linebacker and the team's fourth-leading tackler last season, steps into the Murray role as a physical presence.

There are depth concerns at corner, but Tre Brown is a returning starter, and the safeties, led by Pat Fields (64 tackles), could be special.

SPECIALISTS Oklahoma may boast the league's best kicking game. Gabe Brkic was a Freshman All-American and second-team All-Big 12 pick after making all 17 of his field-goal attempts. While not needed much, Reeves Mundschau averaged 42.4 yards on his 38 punts, with 12 downed inside the 20. The return units, led by Tre Brown, also offer dynamic appeal.

FINAL ANALYSIS There are reasons to expect the Sooners to take a step back, with several key holes either requiring guys previously in supporting roles to prove themselves as premium playmakers, or fresh faces to seize the spotlight, especially at quarterback.

But at Oklahoma, both scenarios are reasonable.

The Big 12 should be better, with young quarterbacks who were thrown into duty in 2019 seemingly ready to elevate their teams. But if Rattler or Mordecai lives up to the hype, and Oklahoma's recruiting edge produces a reload, the Sooners could be back in the CFP picture again.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR	8	Trejan Bridges (So.)	17	Marvin Mims (Fr.)
WR	2	Theo Howard (Sr.)	12	Drake Stoops (So.)
WR	**14**	**Charleston Rambo (Jr.)**	10	Theo Wease (So.)
LT	72	Stacey Wilkins (Fr.)	**77**	**Erik Swenson (Sr.)**
LG	**54**	**Marquis Hayes (Jr.)**	79	Darrell Simpson (So.)
C	**56**	**Creed Humphrey (Jr.)**	75	E.J. Ndoma-Ogar (Fr.)
RG	**52**	**Tyrese Robinson (Jr.)**	70	Brey Walker (So.)
RT	**59**	**Adrian Ealy (Jr.)**	74	Marcus Alexander (Fr.)
TE	**27**	**Jeremiah Hall (Jr.)**	81	Brayden Willis (Jr.)
QB	7	Spencer Rattler (Fr.)	15	Tanner Mordecai (So.)
RB	**26**	**Kennedy Brooks (Jr.)**	29	Rhamondre Stevenson (Sr.)

DEFENSE (9)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**7**	**Ronnie Perkins (Jr.)**	33	Marcus Stripling (So.)
NT	8	Perrion Winfrey (Jr.)	88	Jordan Kelley (So.)
DT	**96**	**LaRon Stokes (Sr.)**	31	Jalen Redmond (So.)
OLB	**11**	**Nik Bonitto (So.)**	**40**	**Jon-Michael Terry (Sr.)**
MLB	**23**	**DaShaun White (Jr.)**	2	David Ugwoegbu (So.)
MLB	19	Caleb Kelly (Sr.)	24	Brian Asamoah (So.)
CB	13	Tre Norwood (Jr.)	4	Jaden Davis (So.)
CB	**6**	**Tre Brown (Sr.)**		Joshua Eaton (Fr.)
NB	**44**	**Brendan Radley-Hiles (Jr.)**	5	Woodi Washington (Fr.)
SS	**32**	**Delarrin Turner-Yell (Jr.)**	25	Justin Broiles (Jr.)
FS	**10**	**Pat Fields (Jr.)**	15	Bryson Washington (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	47	Gabe Brkic (So.)	**KR**	6	Tre Brown (Sr.)
P	46	Reeves Mundschau (Jr.)	**PR**	14	Charleston Rambo (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jalen Hurts	340	237	3,851	32	8
Tanner Mordecai	**26**	**16**	**207**	**2**	**0**
Spencer Rattler	**11**	**7**	**81**	**1**	**0**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Jalen Hurts	233	1,298	5.6	20
Kennedy Brooks	**155**	**1,011**	**6.5**	**6**
Rhamondre Stevenson	**64**	**515**	**8.0**	**6**
Trey Sermon	54	385	7.1	4
T.J. Pledger	**10**	**65**	**6.5**	**1**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
CeeDee Lamb	62	1,327	21.4	14
Charleston Rambo	**43**	**743**	**17.3**	**5**
Nick Basquine	19	275	14.5	1
Jadon Haselwood	**19**	**272**	**14.3**	**1**
Lee Morris	18	330	18.3	1

KICKING: **Gabe Brkic, 17-17 FGs, 103 pts.**
TACKLES: Kenneth Murray, 102; **Delarrin Turner-Yell, 75**
SACKS: **Jalen Redmond, 6.5**
INTERCEPTIONS: **Brendan Radley-Hiles, 2**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE SOONERS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP OKLAHOMA

"Their performance in the playoff game was a total aberration. I think any coach in this league would tell you that. Nothing about that game really matched up with the improvement they'd shown last year. I think the personnel killed them. Too many injuries and too many suspensions. (Alex) Grinch did a phenomenal job with them last year up until that point. Don't judge them on that game. ... It's all about (Spencer) Rattler this year, and he could be great. He's the first guy they've had in a few years who has program and system experience going into that first start. They have so many tremendous skill position players to help him, I think he's going to be just fine. ... CeeDee Lamb leaving is certainly a setback, but that's maybe the one position where you can afford to lose an NFL guy, if there's such a thing. They're always developing running backs. We just assume we're going to see high-level guys at that position before we know their names. ... If you assume that Lincoln (Riley) is automatic at finding ways to score points, you measure Oklahoma's quality by how long it will take Grinch to get them up to speed on defense. You have to consider them a conference title contender every single season. Lincoln has shown he's the real deal."

OKLAHOMA STATE Cowboys

National Forecast: **14** · Big 12 Prediction: **2** · Projected Record: **9-4, 6-3 Big 12**

Tylan Wallace

While Oklahoma State's rise to regular national relevance is now two decades strong, the Cowboys have only occasionally propped themselves up on the big stage as a legit contender.

This could be such a season.

When running back Chuba Hubbard and wide receiver Tylan Wallace both announced they'd return for another season and not opt for the NFL Draft, arguably the two best players in the nation at their positions saddled up for a team already rich in veteran talent.

The Cowboys return 19 starters from last year's eight-win squad, add key graduate transfers and head into the season carrying their most optimism since 2011, when they finished mere percentage points from a berth in the national title game.

"Everybody is ready to go," linebacker Amen Ogbongbemiga said during a January pep rally. "We're gonna work hard, and we're gonna try to bring you all a Big 12 and national championship."

OFFENSE Posting the 16th-best rushing season in FBS history with 2,094 yards a year ago, Hubbard earned Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year and unanimous All-American honors.

Wallace was a 2018 Biletnikoff Award finalist and led Power 5 receivers in yards per game and yards per catch before blowing out his knee during a Week 9 practice. He has to prove himself fully healthy but was ahead of schedule before spring practice began.

The Cowboys have other receiving threats, too, including reliable wideout Dillon Stoner and 2019 breakout performer Braydon Johnson, among others. LSU transfer Dee Anderson, a former four-star recruit, is expected to bolster the position as well.

Backups LD Brown, Dezmon Jackson and Deondrick Glass offer capable complements to Hubbard.

The offensive line is another asset, led by tackle Teven Jenkins, who according to advanced stats didn't allow a sack or even allow a defender to touch the quarterback a year ago. The Cowboys lost two starters up front but added West Virginia transfer Josh Sills — a two-year starter at guard — to plug one of the holes.

Ultimately, the full dynamic of the offense — and perhaps the team — likely comes down to the play of quarterback Spencer Sanders.

After experiencing some early growing pains as a redshirt freshman last fall, Sanders was showing progress when his season ended with two games remaining due to a thumb injury.

Sanders, a run-pass threat and former top recruit, was still named Big 12 Offensive Freshman of the Year after setting a freshman school passing record with 2,065 yards. If he takes the anticipated next step as a sophomore, the offense should be elite.

Sanders seeks that and more. "Everybody talks about how you take steps at a time," Sanders said. "I don't really like taking steps. Either I'm going big or I'm going home. I'm not going to set myself up short."

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Mike Gundy
Record at School: 129-64 (15 years)
Career Record: 129-64 (15 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Kasey Dunn
Defensive Coordinator: Jim Knowles
Location: Stillwater, OK
Stadium: Boone Pickens Stadium (55,509)

KEY COWBOYS

CHUBA HUBBARD, RB Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year surprisingly spurns NFL Draft after 2,094-yard season.

TYLAN WALLACE, WR A return to form by Wallace provides dynamic balance to the offense, which disappeared once he was lost in 2019.

JARRICK BERNARD, CB Played well at safety a year ago, but now must transition smoothly to corner, where coaches believe he'll shine.

KEY LOSSES

JOHNNY WILSON, C During a career that featured 34 starts, Wilson was an anchor on the offensive line, with his mean streak setting a tone for the unit.

MARCUS KEYES, G A four-year starter, Keyes started 50 games during a solid and reliable career.

A.J. GREEN, CB A Thorpe Award semifinalist, Green developed into one of the Big 12's best corners; second team All-Big 12 as a senior.

RISING STAR

After working his way onto the field as a true freshman, defensive back **THOMAS HARPER** has situated himself for a significant role in his second season. Thomas' versatility and instincts make him a valuable piece for the defense, where he can play corner or safety.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3	Oregon State
Sept.	12	Tulsa
Sept.	19	Western Illinois
Oct.	3	at TCU
Oct.	10	Iowa State
Oct.	17	at Kansas
Oct.	24	at Oklahoma
Oct.	31	Texas Tech
Nov.	7	at Baylor
Nov.	14	West Virginia
Nov.	21	at Kansas State
Nov.	27	Texas

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5, 5-4 BIG 12

Aug.	30	at Oregon State	W	52-36
Sept.	7	McNeese State	W	56-14
Sept.	14	at Tulsa	W	40-21
Sept.	21	at Texas	L	30-36
Sept.	28	Kansas State	W	26-13
Oct.	5	at Texas Tech	L	35-45
Oct.	19	Baylor	L	27-45
Oct.	26	at Iowa State	W	34-27
Nov.	2	TCU	W	34-27
Nov.	16	Kansas	W	31-13
Nov.	23	at West Virginia	W	20-13
Nov.	30	Oklahoma	L	16-34
Dec.	27	vs. Texas A&M #	L	21-24

#Texas Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	BIG 12	NATIONAL
Scoring	32.5 ppg	4	35
Rushing	229.6 ypg	2	17
Passing	224.3 ypg	8	71
Total	453.9 ypg	4	21
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**BIG 12**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	26.8 ppg	5	61
Rushing	158.5 ypg	6	67
Passing	253.8 ypg	8	102
Total	412.3 ypg	7	82
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**BIG 12**	**NATIONAL**
-1	-0.08	6	70

2020 RECRUITS

1. Shane Illingworth, QB, Norco, CA
2. Trent Pullen, OG, Waco, TX
3. Korie Black, CB, Waco, TX
4. Matt Polk, WR, Scottsdale, AZ
5. Eli Russ, OG, Ardmore, OK
6. Quinton Stewart, TE, Salina, KS
7. Cade Bennett, OG, Scottsdale, AZ
8. Jordan Reagan, CB, Bixby, OK
9. Jeff Roberson, LB, Choctaw, OK
10. Brennan Presley, ATH, Bixby, OK
11. Jabbar Muhammad, CB, DeSoto, TX
12. Ethan Bullock, QB, Maitland, FL*
13. Cole Thompson, LB, Norman, OK
14. Mason Cobb, LB, Provo, UT
15. Grant Mahon, DT, Denton, TX
16. Rashod Owens, ATH, San Antonio, TX
17. Zach Middleton, S, Tulsa, OK
18. Monroe Mills, OT, Columbia, MO
19. Tyren Irby, DE, Lake Cormorant, MS*
20. Nick Session, S, Salt Lake City, UT
21. Lamont Bishop, LB, Country Club Hills, IL*

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Bruce Waterfield/OSU Athletics

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	28.1	100
Defense	28.6	41
Margin	**-0.5**	**77**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	43.2%	56
Defense	41.5%	63
Margin	**+1.7%**	**63**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.4	20
Defense	5.8	81
Margin	**+0.6**	**42**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	5.0	27
Defense	4.3	38
Margin	**+0.7**	**29**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	1.8	50
Actual	-1	69
Margin	**-2.8**	**92**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

179.5

Chuba Hubbard ran for 2,094 yards and added 198 receiving yards and 42 yards on kick returns — an FBS-best 2,334 all-purpose yards in 2019. His average of 179.5 per game led the nation by a wide margin.

15

Hubbard also led the nation with 15 carries of 30 yards or more. He either led outright or tied for the FBS lead on the number of runs of 40 yards or more (9), 50 or more (7), 60 or more (5), 70 or more (3), 80 or more (2) and 90 or more (1).

18.72%

Remarkably, despite Hubbard being one of the most explosive players in college football in 2019, Oklahoma State managed a gain of 10 yards or more on just 18.72 percent of its offensive snaps last year. The Pokes ranked No. 97 nationally and No. 8 in the Big 12.

DEFENSE Big 12 defenses rarely command respect, and that's been particularly true at Oklahoma State. Yet in 2019, the second season under coordinator Jim Knowles, the Cowboys made clear strides and grew into one of the better units in the league by season's end. They ranked No. 37 nationally in defensive efficiency — up from No. 80 the year before.

The Cowboys return 21 of 22 defenders from the season-ending two-deep, led by active linebackers and leading tacklers Malcolm Rodriguez and Ogbongbemiga.

There is a significant hole where cornerback A.J. Green worked as a three-year starter. Jarrick Bernard is sliding over from a starting spot as a safety, and Rodarius Williams is back at the other corner, entering his fourth year as a regular. Missouri grad transfer Christian Holmes provides another option.

Safety Kolby Harvell-Peel emerged as a playmaker and first team All-Big 12 performer a year ago, leading the conference with 1.5 passes defended per game and ranking seventh nationally with five interceptions.

The defensive line, in rebuilding mode to start last season, developed into a team strength and now counts as many as 10 players who can contribute up front, led by sophomore defensive end Trace Ford, whom many consider a rising star.

SPECIALISTS If the Cowboys have a glaring area of need, it's in the kicking game.

Alex Hale and Jake McClure are battling for the placement duties, with no clear leader. Punter Tom Hutton struggled throughout his rookie season in 2018 and appears to be the only option.

The return game has been pedestrian in recent seasons, although incoming freshman Brennan Presley could provide a jolt of life, along with Braydon Johnson.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Cowboys see this as a high-stakes season. They've got the talent and the kind of schedule that aligns with their lofty goals. They can't withstand the crippling injuries that limited the team a year ago. And along with staying healthy, Sanders must elevate his game.

If things go right? "We'll be bringing a national championship back to Stillwater," Hubbard said at that pep rally in January.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**2**	**Tylan Wallace (Sr.)**	88	Langston Anderson (Fr.)
WR	8	Braydon Johnson (Jr.)		Dee Anderson (Sr.)
WR	**17**	**Dillon Stoner (Sr.)**	1	Landon Wolf (Sr.)
LT	**76**	**Dylan Galloway (Sr.)**	52	Jacob Farrell (So.)
LG	72	Josh Sills (Sr.)	77	Hunter Anthony (So.)
C	50	Ry Schneider (Sr.)	60	Tyrese Williams (So.)
RG	**78**	**Bryce Bray (So.)**	70	Hunter Woodard (So.)
RT	**73**	**Teven Jenkins (Sr.)**	67	Cole Birmingham (Fr.)
TE	**89**	**Jelani Woods (Jr.)**	87	Logan Carter (Sr.)
QB	**3**	**Spencer Sanders (So.)**	16	Shane Illingworth (Fr.)
RB	**30**	**Chuba Hubbard (Jr.)**	27	Dezmon Jackson (Jr.)

DEFENSE (11)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**94**	**Trace Ford (So.)**	**40**	**Brock Martin (Jr.)**
DT	**95**	**Israel Antwine (Jr.)**	98	Brendon Evers (Jr.)
DT	**92**	**Cameron Murray (Sr.)**	99	Sione Asi (Jr.)
DE	**89**	**Tyler Lacy (So.)**	37	Isreal Isuman-Hundley (Fr.)
LB	**11**	**Amen Ogbongbemiga (Sr.)**	16	Devin Harper (Sr.)
LB	**20**	**Malcolm Rodriguez (Sr.)**	36	Na'Drian Dizadare (Fr.)
CB	**8**	**Rodarius Williams (Sr.)**	13	Thomas Harper (So.)
CB	**24**	**Jarrick Bernard (Jr.)**		Christian Holmes (Sr.)
S	2	Tanner McCalister (Jr.)	18	Sean Michael Flanagan (So.)
S	**3**	**Tre Sterling (Jr.)**	12	Kanion Williams (So.)
S	**31**	**Kolby Harvell-Peel (Jr.)**	25	Jason Taylor II (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	19	Alex Hale (So.)	**KR**	8	Braydon Johnson (Jr.)
P	29	Tom Hutton (So.)	**PR**	17	Dillon Stoner (Sr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Spencer Sanders	**247**	**155**	**2,065**	**16**	**11**
Dru Brown	107	72	810	7	1
Shaun Taylor	**4**	**4**	**21**	**0**	**0**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Chuba Hubbard	**328**	**2,094**	**6.4**	**21**
Spender Sanders	**139**	**628**	**4.5**	**2**
LD Brown	**40**	**221**	**5.5**	**2**
Jahmyl Jeter	11	34	3.1	0
Micah Cooper	**7**	**12**	**1.7**	**1**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Tylan Wallace	**53**	**903**	**17.0**	**8**
Dillon Stoner	**52**	**599**	**11.5**	**5**
Braydon Johnson	**23**	**491**	**21.3**	**4**
Jordan McCray	19	237	12.5	2
Chuba Hubbard	**23**	**198**	**8.6**	**0**
Landon Wolf	**25**	**189**	**7.6**	**0**

KICKING: Matt Ammendola, 20-26 FGs, 108 pts.
TACKLES: **Malcolm Rodriguez, 103; Amen Ogbongbemiga, 100**
SACKS: **Amen Ogbongbemiga, 5.0**
INTERCEPTIONS: **Kolby Harvell-Peel, 5**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE COWBOYS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP OKLAHOMA STATE

"By far they have the most experience on offense. Spencer (Sanders) is dangerous. He's a really athletic kid who can run and throw. He's a baseball player, too, and it shows. He can sling the thing. I think it really took their whole team out of it when he got hurt. Chuba (Hubbard) is the real deal, a dude. He's as good a running back as there is in college football. Last year I don't think there was a team more valuable to his team than Chuba. ... The offensive line is good at what they do, what they want to do. They carried over a lot of the K-State attitude, old school, physical, mean, all that good stuff. ... The receivers are always standouts. (Tylan) Wallace could be the best receiver in the league at the end of the year. There's a lot of talent in the Big 12 at that position, too. ... Defensively, it's the same story. No one really jumps out at you on tape. The story is the other side of the ball. ... A lot of people will make something out of the OC change, but at this point it's about Mike (Gundy). Mike is the guiding principle for that offense. The flavor doesn't change all that much. ... The Oklahoma thing, I don't know what you can say. It's psychological at this point. From a distance it always looks like they are a different team before and after."

TCU Horned Frogs

National Forecast: **43** · Big 12 Prediction: **6** · Projected Record: **7-5, 5-4 Big 12**

Max Duggan

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Gary Patterson
Record at School: 172-70 (19+ years)
Career Record: 172-70 (19+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Sonny Cumbie
Defensive Coordinator: Chad Glasgow
Location: Fort Worth, TX
Stadium: Amon G. Carter Stadium (47,000)

KEY HORNED FROGS

MAX DUGGAN, QB Just the second true freshman to start at quarterback in the Gary Patterson era and just the third non-Texan.

TAYE BARBER, WR The Frogs' leading receiver over the last seven games, which included a 64-yard run against West Virginia.

COY MCMILLON, C Started every game in 2019 and brings back the most experience on the line at its most critical position.

KEY LOSSES

JALEN REAGOR, WR Team's leading receiver as a sophomore and junior and also returned two punts for touchdowns in 2019.

LUCAS NIANG, OT Did not allow a sack as a junior or senior, grading out as the Big 12's best pass protector in 2018 according to PFF.

JEFF GLADNEY, CB Started 42 games in the pass-happy Big 12, tying for second in the conference in passes defended as a senior.

RISING STAR

Plucked out of Louisiana, **PATRICK JENKINS** came to Fort Worth as TCU's top defensive recruit of the 2020 class. Gary Patterson said that the defensive tackle promptly showed why the Frogs were so happy to pry him away from LSU, Texas A&M, Ole Miss and others.

It's been a long time since TCU went three consecutive years without winning eight games. More than two decades, in fact. Before the first camera phone, Facebook and YouTube. Before Gary Patterson.

But now it's on the veteran coach to avoid the driest three-year stretch at TCU since the 1999 team went 8–4 to end a run of 14 seasons without eight wins. That team, with Patterson as interim head coach, defeated East Carolina in the Mobile Alabama Bowl to reach 8–4 and get Patterson the job permanently.

If and when the 2020 season begins, getting back to eight or more wins has to be high on Patterson's mind. Right?

"I'm not trying to get back to anything," the Frogs boss shrugged, talking to reporters March 2 after the third of what turned out to be four spring practices. "We just need to develop guys so they become good."

The long hiatus to combat COVID-19 kept the Frogs from getting a jump on those plans, which took on heightened importance with the loss of four starting offensive linemen, the return of offensive assistant Doug Meacham, and the arrival of former Minnesota coach Jerry Kill as an offensive consultant for a team that had only one healthy scholarship quarterback in the spring, sophomore Max Duggan.

TCU also lost its best defensive lineman, cornerback and left tackle in a sizable exodus to the NFL following a 5–7 year, only the third without a bowl in Patterson's tenure. "To be honest with you, our kids were a little bit embarrassed," the coach told Sirius XM in February of the 2019 campaign. "This gave me an opportunity to start with myself and evaluate every part from the football aspect to academics to offseason program — all of it. Good programs, you just keep tweaking it."

OFFENSE Duggan started the final 10 games and played the last six in their entirety after sharing time with Alex Delton. The four-star signee from Council Bluffs, Iowa, set TCU true freshman records for passing yards and touchdowns, and he also ran for six scores. But the jump from Iowa high school ball to the Big 12 left a mark, as he threw 10 interceptions in a 2–4 closing stretch.

The Frogs aim to take pressure off him with a slew of talented runners, led by redshirt freshmen Darwin Barlow and Daimarqua Foster, junior Emari Demercado and incoming freshmen Dominic Richardson, a top-10-rated back in Oklahoma, and Kendre Miller. But only Demercado has more than three games of college experience. Taye Barber headlines a similarly green group of receivers after becoming Duggan's top target over the final seven games. The junior's twisting mid-air catch for 51 yards sealed a victory against No. 15 Texas.

Of course, the skill positions need time and space to work, so a major priority for TCU is meshing an offensive line. Only center Coy McMillon returns as a full-time starter for assistant Jarrett Anderson, who shifted back to offensive line coach, his staff position when TCU won 23 games in 2014-15.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at California
Sept.	12	Prairie View A&M
Sept.	26	at SMU
Oct.	3	Oklahoma State
Oct.	10	at West Virginia
Oct.	17	Kansas State
Oct.	24	at Baylor
Oct.	31	Oklahoma
Nov.	7	Iowa State
Nov.	14	at Texas
Nov.	21	Texas Tech
Nov.	28	at Kansas

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 5-7, 3-6 BIG 12

Sept.	1	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	W	39-7
Sept.	14	at Purdue	W	34-13
Sept.	21	SMU	L	38-41
Sept.	28	Kansas	W	51-14
Oct.	5	at Iowa State	L	24-49
Oct.	19	at Kansas State	L	17-24
Oct.	26	Texas	W	37-27
Nov.	2	at Oklahoma State	L	27-34
Nov.	9	Baylor (ot)	L	23-29
Nov.	16	at Texas Tech	W	33-31
Nov.	23	at Oklahoma	L	24-28
Nov.	29	West Virginia	L	17-20

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	BIG 12	NATIONAL
Scoring	30.3 ppg	7	55
Rushing	204.0 ypg	3	29
Passing	203.7 ypg	9	90
Total	407.7 ypg	7	62
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**BIG 12**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	26.4 ppg	4	57
Rushing	137.3 ypg	2	39
Passing	199.7 ypg	1	27
Total	336.9 ypg	1	27
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**BIG 12**	**NATIONAL**
0	0.00	5	61

2020 RECRUITS

1. Quentin Johnston, WR, Temple, TX
2. Garrett Hayes, OG, Athens, TX
3. Patrick Jenkins, DT, Marrero, LA
4. Keontae Jenkins, CB, Virginia Beach, VA
5. Bud Clark, S, Alexandria, LA
6. Savion Williams, WR, Marshall, TX
7. Jamoi Hodge, LB, Winston-Salem, NC*
8. Altrique Barlow, OG, Virginia Beach, VA
9. Khari Coleman, DE, New Orleans, LA
10. Michael Nichols, OT, Justin, TX
11. Dominic Richardson, RB, Oklahoma City, OK
12. Brandon Coleman, OT, Denton, TX*
13. Eli Williams, QB, Sapulpa, OK
14. Caleb Medford, WR, Henderson, TX
15. Tyler Guyton, OT, Manor, TX
16. Blake Nowell, WR, Ardmore, OK
17. Kendre Miller, ATH, Mount Enterprise, TX
18. Stephon Brown, QB, Kernersville, NC*

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Ellman Photography/TCU Athletics

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	31.1	41
Defense	30.7	101
Margin	**+0.4**	**67**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	40.7%	82
Defense	36.4%	16
Margin	**+4.3%**	**43**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.4	93
Defense	5.3	37
Margin	**+0.1**	**71**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.5	72
Defense	5.1	118
Margin	**-0.6**	**103**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-1.2	76
Actual	0	61
Margin	**+1.2**	**51**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

23.88

TCU recorded 16 interceptions in 2019, second in the Big 12 and 10th nationally. Including sacks, TCU intercepted one of every 23.88 passes its opponents called last year, best in the conference and No. 3 in FBS.

21

TCU posted a 94.34 percent scoring rate inside the red zone last season, which was third best in the Big 12 and ranked No. 8 nationally. However, the Horned Frogs kicked 21 field goals inside the 20-yard line, which tied Arizona State for the FBS lead.

18.06

Breaking up a pass is the next best thing to an interception, which is why we keep track of the two combined as "passes defended." TCU either intercepted a pass or knocked one down on 18.06 percent of pass plays in 2019, which led the Big 12 and ranked No. 4 in the country.

DEFENSE TCU got only about half the sacks that it's used to, just 22, and the best defensive linemen, Ross Blacklock, left early for the NFL. Star newcomers Patrick Jenkins, Jaquaze Sorrells and Khari Coleman have a wide berth to show what they can do alongside veterans Ochaun Mathis (DE), Parker Workman (DE), Colt Ellison (DE), and Corey Bethley (DT).

At linebacker, senior Garret Wallow returns after leading the Big 12 in tackles and TCU with 18 tackles for a loss. Trevon Moehrig and Ar'Darius Washington combined for nine interceptions last season and were rated the Big 12's top returning safeties by Pro Football Focus.

La'Kendrick Van Zandt got a turn at linebacker as a sophomore, but he will take his speed back to the secondary at safety. After losing their top two cornerbacks, Jeff Gladney and Julius Lewis, the Frogs have a fast new crop led by sophomore Tre'Vius Hodges-Tomlinson (nephew of LaDainian), sophomore Kee'Yon Stewart, who started six games, and incoming four-star Keontae Jenkins, the 17th-ranked cornerback in the country by 247Sports.

SPECIALISTS Griffin Kell hit a 52-yard field goal at the halftime gun against Texas, so he has a head start on performing in the clutch. Jordy Sandy had only five touchbacks on 61 punts and held for kicks. The Frogs will have a hard time replacing Jalen Reagor's explosiveness as a returner, but junior receiver Derius Davis brings a key ingredient — fantastic speed.

FINAL ANALYSIS TCU has a year of experience at the game's most critical position, but without a strong backup, the season could derail if Duggan is unavailable for any reason. With Duggan, the Frogs boast a playmaker who stung Big 12 foes Kansas State, Texas and Oklahoma with his legs as much as his arm. Meacham's input should strengthen the passing game with a re-infusion of Air Raid concepts, but the Frogs can't wait to showcase their running backs.

Defensively, if the pass rush returns to its traditional levels, the young cornerback group will get time to get up to speed. TCU has fallen off its standard win totals of late, largely because of quarterback instability. But talent continues to pour in, and eventually, it should show.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (3)

WR	4	Taye Barber (Jr.)	12	Derius Davis (Jr.)
WR	**9**	**Te'Vailance Hunt (Jr.)**	7	John Stephens Jr. (Jr.)
WR	11	Dylan Thomas (Sr.)	22	Blair Conwright (Fr.)
WR	2	Mikel Barkley (So.)	80	Al'Dontre Davis (Jr.)
LT	57	T.J. Storment (Sr.)	74	Andrew Coker (Fr.)
LG	51	Quazzel White (Jr.)	53	John Lanz (So.)
C	**69**	**Coy McMillon (Jr.)**	79	Esteban Avila (So.)
RG	78	Wes Harris (Jr.)	58	Altrique Barlow (Fr.)
RT	56	Austin Myers (Sr.)	77	Brandon Coleman (So.)
QB	**15**	**Max Duggan (So.)**	17	Matthew Downing (So.)
RB	24	Darwin Barlow (Fr.)	21	Daimarqua Foster (Fr.)

DEFENSE (4)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**32**	**Ochaun Mathis (So.)**	11	Khari Coleman (Fr.)
DT	95	Terrell Cooper (Jr.)	91	Patrick Jenkins (Fr.)
DT	**94**	**Corey Bethley (Sr.)**	90	Jaquaze Sorrells (Fr.)
DE	44	Colt Ellison (So.)	40	Parker Workman (Sr.)
LB	**30**	**Garret Wallow (Sr.)**	18	Ben Wilson (Jr.)
LB	25	Wyatt Harris (So.)	13	Dee Winters (So.)
CB	1	T. Hodges-Tomlinson (So.)	23	Tony Wallace (Jr.)
CB	21	Noah Daniels (Jr.)	2	Kee'Yon Stewart (So.)
SS	20	La'Kendrick Van Zandt (Jr.)	28	Nook Bradford (So.)
FS	**7**	**Trevon Moehrig (Jr.)**	15	Josh Foster (So.)
WS	27	Ar'Darius Washington (So.)	9	Atanza Vongor (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	39	Griffin Kell (So.)	**KR**	12	Derius Davis (Jr.)
P	31	Jordy Sandy (So.)	**PR**	12	Derius Davis (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Max Duggan	**339**	**181**	**2,007**	**15**	**10**
Alex Delton	50	27	318	0	1
Mike Collins	5	3	49	0	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Darius Anderson	151	823	5.5	6
Max Duggan	**130**	**555**	**4.3**	**6**
Sewo Olonilua	134	537	4.0	8
Alex Delton	17	100	5.9	0
Darwin Barlow	**22**	**99**	**4.5**	**1**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Jalen Reagor	43	611	14.2	5
Taye Barber	**29**	**372**	**12.8**	**0**
Sewo Olonilua	24	114	4.8	1
Darius Anderson	22	128	5.8	0
Te'Vailance Hunt	**20**	**308**	**15.4**	**1**

KICKING: Jonathan Song, 23-24 FGs, 108 pts.
TACKLES: **Garret Wallow, 125; Trevon Moehrig, 62**
SACKS: **Garret Wallow, 3.5**; Ross Blacklock, 3.5
INTERCEPTIONS: **Ar'Darius Washington, 5**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE HORNED FROGS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP TCU

"They're a perplexing team. They always play really good defense, they were in a number of close games last season, and this year you turn on the TV and they have one of the higher number of players repped at the combine. But there's definitely been something missing the last couple seasons. ... Obviously defensively they have a great system, and that's Gary (Patterson). He always has them ready, he runs that show and gives them such a signature style. They're always ready, they always present you with problems, and they're exceptional at recruiting to fit it. ... They have a young quarterback (Max Duggan) who I thought was a really good player and capable of playing at a high level, but he can be inconsistent. They've had quarterback issues for the last few years, and that's what's held them back. Duggan is the right kind of QB for this league, keeps plays alive with his feet, gets dangerous at the right times. The thing that could really give them a chance this year is that Duggan can run the football, and he's tough as nails doing it. Maybe more than (Sam) Ehlinger. He has to spark that offense back to the way it was. ... I think the losses on the offensive line might be a bigger issue there. If that unit doesn't work, I don't see the offense getting up to speed."

TEXAS Longhorns

National Forecast: **16** · Big 12 Prediction: **3** · Projected Record: **8-4, 6-3 Big 12**

Sam Ehlinger

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Tom Herman
Record at School: 25-15 (3 years)
Career Record: 47-19 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinators: Herb Hand, Mike Yurcich
Defensive Coordinators: Chris Ash, Coleman Hutzler
Location: Austin, TX
Stadium: Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium (100,119)

KEY LONGHORNS

SAM EHLINGER, QB Completed 65 percent of his passes with 57 touchdowns and 15 interceptions the past two seasons.

JOSEPH OSSAI, OLB/DE (JACK) Team leader in tackles (90), tackles for a loss (13.5) and sacks (5.0), adding two interceptions and a forced fumble in 2019.

SAMUEL COSMI, LT Second-team All-Big 12 in 2019 with 26 starts in 27 games played.

KEY LOSSES

DEVIN DUVERNAY, WR His 8.2 catches per game ranked No. 3 in FBS in 2019, and his 1,386 receiving yards ranked No. 5.

BRANDON JONES, S Versatile defender who led the team in solo tackles (64) last season, adding two interceptions and a forced fumble.

ZACH SHACKELFORD, C A four-year starter at center, he earned first-team All-Big 12 honors in 2018 and 2019.

RISING STAR

For the second year in a row, **JORDAN WHITTINGTON** is the "rising star" for the Longhorns. Last year, as a running back, Whittington's season ended in the opener against Louisiana Tech because of a sports hernia injury. Now, the five-star recruit moves to slot receiver.

Critical installation time for Tom Herman's seven new assistant coaches, including offensive coordinator Mike Yurcich and defensive coordinator Chris Ash, was lost due to the coronavirus pandemic.

But Herman says he made the most of winter conditioning to install Texas' new offense and defense and felt like good chemistry had been established between players and their new position coaches.

Following up a 10-win season in 2018 with an 8–5 downturn in 2019 has turned up the heat on Herman, who overhauled his coaching staff. With seven starters back on offense, led by quarterback Sam Ehlinger, and nine starters back on defense, this should be a Big 12-contending season. "With the way we've recruited the past three years, with top 10-ranked recruiting classes, we figured (2020) might be a season where things could come together for us," Herman says.

OFFENSE While Herman's power spread will still be the basis for Texas' offense, Yurcich brings in some new wrinkles. "Coach Yurcich has some really good ideas about how to get guys open in space," says Ehlinger, who threw for 32 touchdowns with 10 interceptions and ran 163 times for 663 yards (4.1 ypc) and seven TDs in 2019.

Offenses have surged everywhere Yurcich has been, and he went 5–1 against Texas while calling the offense at Oklahoma State from 2013-18. He's hoping to do for Ehlinger what passing game coordinator Joe Brady did for Joe Burrow at LSU last year.

Gone are leading receivers Devin Duvernay, whose 106 catches and 1,386 receiving yards both ranked in the top five nationally, and 6'6" Collin Johnson, who came up with big catches in critical situations.

Ehlinger will look to new slot receiver Jake Smith and outside receiver Brennan Eagles, both of whom had six touchdown catches last season.

Five-star recruit Jordan Whittington, who played in one game at running back last season as a freshman before season-ending sports hernia surgery, is moving to slot receiver and should be a versatile weapon.

Texas also returns promising outside receiver Joshua Moore from a year-long suspension in 2019. Herman also brought in some maturity and experience in Michigan graduate transfer receiver Tarik Black.

Texas has to find two new starters on the offensive line but returns second-team All-Big 12 left tackle Samuel Cosmi and versatile senior Derek Kerstetter, who is expected to move from right tackle to center.

At running back, Texas has depth thanks to junior Keaontay Ingram, who ran for 853 yards (5.9 ypc) and seven touchdowns last season; quarterback-turned-running back Roschon Johnson (649 yards, 5.3 ypc, seven TDs); and incoming five-star freshman Bijan Robinson.

DEFENSE The defense, which is moving from a 3-4 to a 4-3 under Ash, has nine returning starters and figures to be a strength of the team.

Texas hopes it finally has a dominant defensive line

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	USF
Sept.	12	at LSU
Sept.	19	UTEP
Oct.	3	at Kansas State
Oct.	10	vs. Oklahoma #
Oct.	17	West Virginia
Oct.	24	at Texas Tech
Oct.	31	Baylor
Nov.	7	at Kansas
Nov.	14	TCU
Nov.	21	Iowa State
Nov.	27	at Oklahoma State

#Dallas

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5, 5-4 BIG 12

Sept.	1	Louisiana Tech	W	45-14
Sept.	7	LSU	L	38-45
Sept.	14	at Rice	W	48-13
Sept.	21	Oklahoma State	W	36-30
Oct.	5	at West Virginia	W	42-31
Oct.	12	vs. Oklahoma #	L	27-34
Oct.	19	Kansas	W	50-48
Oct.	26	at TCU	L	27-37
Nov.	9	Kansas State	W	27-24
Nov.	16	at Iowa State	L	21-23
Nov.	23	at Baylor	L	10-24
Nov.	29	Texas Tech	W	49-24
Dec.	31	vs. Utah %	W	38-10

#Dallas %Alamo Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	BIG 12	NATIONAL
Scoring	35.2 ppg	2	17
Rushing	176.5 ypg	5	48
Passing	289.3 ypg	4	20
Total	465.8 ypg	3	14
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**BIG 12**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	27.5 ppg	7	65
Rushing	138.9 ypg	3	45
Passing	292.5 ypg	9	127
Total	431.5 ypg	8	97
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**BIG 12**	**NATIONAL**
+5	+0.38	2	33

2020 RECRUITS

1. Bijan Robinson, RB, Tucson, AZ
2. Hudson Card, QB, Austin, TX
3. Alfred Collins, DE, Bastrop, TX
4. Ja'Quinden Jackson, QB, Duncanville, TX
5. Vernon Broughton, DT, Houston, TX
6. Prince Dorbah, LB, Dallas, TX
7. Xavion Alford, S, Pearland, TX
8. Kitan Crawford, CB, Tyler, TX
9. Jerrin Thompson, S, Lufkin, TX
10. Jake Majors, C, Prosper, TX
11. Troy Omeire, WR, Sugar Land, TX
12. Jaylen Garth, OT, Port Neches, TX
13. Logan Parr, OG, Helotes, TX
14. Kelvontay Dixon, ATH, Carthage, TX
15. Andrej Karic, OT, Southlake, TX
16. DaJon Harrison, WR, Hutto, TX
17. Jaden Hullaby, ATH, Arlington, TX
18. Sawyer Goram-Welch, DT, Longview, TX
19. Jaylan Ford, LB, Frisco, TX

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Tim Clark

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	28.9	85
Defense	28.3	39
Margin	**+0.6**	**62**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	46.3%	21
Defense	43.7%	86
Margin	**+2.6%**	**56**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.4	21
Defense	6.1	99
Margin	**+0.3**	**63**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	5.3	9
Defense	4.3	43
Margin	**+1.0**	**20**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	2.2	46
Actual	5	32
Margin	**+2.8**	**41**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

17.71%

The Longhorns picked up 10 yards or more on 17.71 percent of their rushing attempts in 2019, which was the second-highest rate in the Big 12 and eighth highest in the country.

48.9%

Few teams moved the chains as consistently as the Longhorns in 2019. Texas converted 90 of 184 third-down opportunities last season, a 48.9 percent rate that ranked second in the Big 12 and No. 7 in the country.

7.19%

The Longhorns struggled to consistently produce big passing plays last season. Texas quarterbacks completed 306 passes in 2019, though only 22 of those completions gained 30 yards or more. At 7.19 percent, Texas' rate of explosive pass completions ranked 84th in the country.

with senior Marqez Bimage at end; senior Ta'Quon Graham at the three-technique defensive tackle; redshirt sophomore Keondre Coburn at nose tackle; and junior Joseph Ossai as a stand-up defensive end, known as the "Jack" in Ash's defense.

Ossai, who could have an NFL decision after this season, played the Jack in Texas' 38–10 upset of Utah in the Alamo Bowl and finished with nine tackles, six tackles for a loss and three sacks.

One reason Herman let Todd Orlando go as defensive coordinator was Orlando's reliance on the blitz to get pressure. With Ossai, the team's best pass rusher, playing up on the line, the hope is that Texas can get pressure rushing four.

Cornerbacks Jalen Green, D'Shawn Jamison, Josh Thompson and Kenyatta Watson II picked up valuable experience last season, as did nickel corners Anthony Cook and Chris Adimora.

Texas is loaded with NFL prospects at safety, led by juniors Caden Sterns and B.J. Foster as well as senior Chris Brown.

SPECIALISTS Junior kicker Cameron Dicker, who became a Texas legend with a 40-yard field goal with nine seconds left to beat Oklahoma in 2018, continued to be clutch in 2019 with game-winners with no time left to beat both Kansas and Kansas State. Junior punter Ryan Bujcevski, cousin of former Ray Guy Award winner Michael Dickson, needs to pick it up from his 41.7 yards-per-punt average in 2019. Jamison, who scored on a 98-yard kick return in 2019 and had a 71-yard punt return in the Alamo Bowl, is a weapon.

FINAL ANALYSIS Despite overhauling his coaching staff, Herman has the talent to threaten Oklahoma's five-year hold on the Big 12 title. The Longhorns have to find two new starters on the offensive line and are unproven at inside linebacker. But Texas has solid leadership on both sides of the ball, led by Ehlinger, Cosmi and Ossai.

The Longhorns will be tested early with a road trip to LSU on Sept. 12. The Red River Showdown on Oct. 10 and a season-ending road trip to Oklahoma State figure to be defining tests.

Herman is not coaching for his job in 2020, but another sub-par season could turn up the heat heading into the fall of 2021.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**13**	**Brennan Eagles (Jr.)**	7	Tarik Black (Sr.)
WR	16	Jake Smith (So.)	21	Jordan Whittington (Fr.)
WR	14	Joshua Moore (So.)	15	Marcus Washington (So.)
LT	**52**	**Samuel Cosmi (Jr.)**	72	Tyler Johnson (Fr.)
LG	**75**	**Junior Angilau (So.)**	67	Tope Imade (Sr.)
C	**68**	**Derek Kerstetter (Sr.)**	74	Rafiti Ghirmai (So.)
RG	78	Denzel Okafor (Sr.)	55	Willie Tyler (So.)
RT	70	Christian Jones (So.)	65	Isaiah Hookfin (Fr.)
TE	**80**	**Cade Brewer (Sr.)**	18	Jared Wiley (So.)
QB	**11**	**Sam Ehlinger (Sr.)**	8	Casey Thompson (So.)
RB	**26**	**Keaontay Ingram (Jr.)**	2	Roschon Johnson (So.)

DEFENSE (9)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	42	Marqez Bimage (Sr.)	98	Moro Ojomo (So.)
NT	**99**	**Keondre Coburn (So.)**	93	T'Vondre Sweat (So.)
DT	**49**	**Ta'Quon Graham (Sr.)**	48	Vernon Broughton (Fr.)
JACK	**46**	**Joseph Ossai (Jr.)**	50	Byron Vaughns (So.)
MLB	**40**	**Ayodele Adeoye (So.)**	6	Juwan Mitchell (Jr.)
OLB	31	DeMarvion Overshown (Jr.)	33	David Gbenda (Fr.)
CB	**5**	**D'Shawn Jamison (Jr.)**	29	Josh Thompson (Jr.)
CB	**3**	**Jalen Green (Jr.)**	2	Kenyatta Watson II (Fr.)
NB	4	Anthony Cook (Jr.)	11	Chris Adimora (So.)
S	**25**	**B.J. Foster (Jr.)**	**15**	**Chris Brown (Sr.)**
S	**7**	**Caden Sterns (Jr.)**	44	Tyler Owens (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	17	Cameron Dicker (Jr.)	**KR**	5	D'Shawn Jamison (Jr.)
P	8	Ryan Bujcevski (Jr.)	**PR**	5	D'Shawn Jamison (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Sam Ehlinger	**454**	**296**	**3,663**	**32**	**10**
Casey Thompson	**12**	**8**	**84**	**0**	**0**
Devin Duvernay	2	2	14	0	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Keaontay Ingram	**144**	**853**	**5.9**	**7**
Sam Ehlinger	**163**	**663**	**4.1**	**7**
Roschon Johnson	**123**	**649**	**5.3**	**7**
Daniel Young	**16**	**63**	**3.9**	**2**
Devin Duvernay	10	24	2.4	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Devin Duvernay	106	1,386	13.1	9
Collin Johnson	38	559	14.7	3
Brennan Eagles	**32**	**522**	**16.3**	**6**
Keaontay Ingram	**29**	**242**	**8.3**	**3**
Jake Smith	**25**	**274**	**11.0**	**6**

KICKING: **Cameron Dicker, 14-18 FGs, 98 pts.**
TACKLES: **Joseph Ossai, 90**; Brandon Jones, 86
SACKS: **Joseph Ossai, 5.0**
INTERCEPTIONS: **D'Shawn Jamison, 3**

Returning Players in Bold

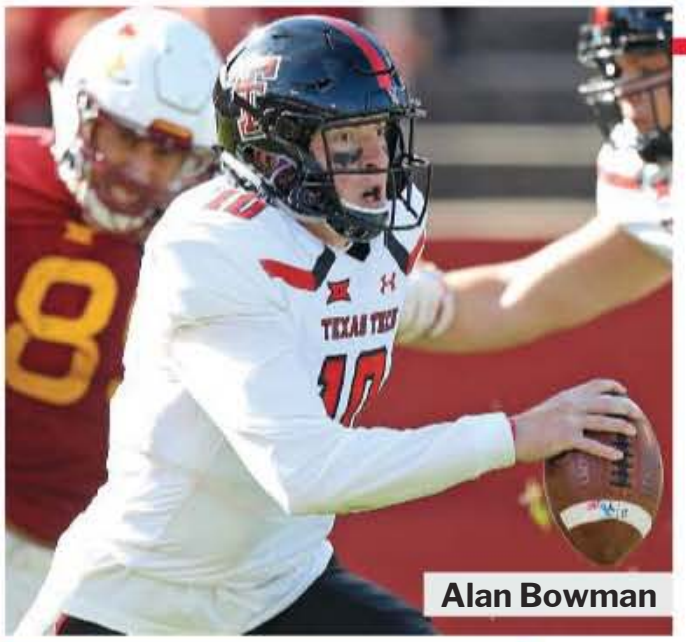
SCOUTING THE LONGHORNS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP TEXAS

"This was a really young team with expectations they couldn't meet. I thought they finished the season playing really well down the stretch, which speaks to the leadership of Tom (Herman) and his staff. ... Chris Ash taking over the defense is going to calm them down a bit. Last year they were young and injured. It wasn't anything more than that. We expect Ash to bring in some consistency. Get guys healthy, get young guys calm, do more with less schematically. ... Because of the injuries, they couldn't stop anyone on the back end last year. We all knew it. There's a solid defensive line up front; the nose (Keondre Coburn) is a monster. I think they're going to more of a four down front, so the hybrid guy (Joseph Ossai) will be more of an edge pass rusher. He's a real talent. ... Sam Ehlinger is a real dude. If this was the league, he'd be considered the pro's pro, the guy you use as an example off the field. The running backs (Keaontay) Ingram and (Roschon) Johnson are already solid, and they've signed another great one (Bijan Robinson). They need to be more creative to get Sam better looks. ... They should benefit in 2020 from being considered a bust last year before they were ready. There's less hype on them right now, which is good."

TEXAS TECH Red Raiders

National Forecast: **58** · Big 12 Prediction: **9** · Projected Record: **5-7, 2-7 Big 12**



Alan Bowman

Matt Wells' inaugural season in Lubbock ended with a 4–8 record, the second time in the past decade the Red Raiders have finished with so few wins. Wells believes things will begin to trend up this season, now that he has had a little time to put his stamp on the program. The former Utah State head coach is focused on shaping the Red Raiders into a consistent postseason visitor, one that wins bowl games when it goes to them — Texas Tech is 1–2 in bowl games since 2013. Despite a disappointing first year, Wells has the full confidence of Texas Tech athletic director Kirby Hocutt to turn things around.

OFFENSE Offensive coordinator David Yost found some success with the well-known Air Raid offense after he took over. Texas Tech ranked 11th nationally in total offense, averaging more than 474 yards per game. Yost did it with backup quarterback Jett Duffey after Alan Bowman missed a majority of the year due to injury after also missing four games in 2018. Freshman Maverick McIvor may have been in line to be ahead of Duffey in the backup role, but a broken foot sidelined him the entire season. Now, Bowman and McIvor are healthy and Duffey has opted to transfer. Bowman looks to be the projected starter in 2020. In three games in 2019, Bowman posted 1,020 yards with a 65.6 completion rate.

Running back SaRodorick Thompson is the leading back, especially after the departure of Ta'Zhawn Henry. Thompson led the Red Raiders with 765 rushing yards last year. Wide receiver T.J. Vasher is poised to have a solid senior season with an adjustment in his body and overall attitude. Vasher says he took some time in the offseason to focus on his game, adding some weight in the process. But after suspensions and off-the-field problems, he also had a change in attitude.

Erik Ezukanma led the Red Raiders in receiving yards as a freshman with 664 and scored four touchdowns. He will once again be the second outside threat on the offense behind Vasher.

Jack Anderson highlights the returners on the offensive line but is recovering from surgery last fall. He's still rated as one of the best guards in the Big 12 and will have a returning center next to him in Dawson Deaton. It will be up to guys like Casey Verhulst, Zach Adams and Weston Wright to fill in the holes at left guard and both tackle positions when it comes to depth after losing players to graduation. Transfer Josh Burger, a two-year starter at Wofford, is in line to take over at left tackle for the Red Raiders if he transitions over smoothly.

DEFENSE The defense lost a key player at each level — Broderick Washington Jr. on the defensive line, Jordyn Brooks at linebacker, and Douglas Coleman III (who grabbed eight interceptions in 2019) in the secondary. Defensive coordinator Keith Patterson continues to emphasize the importance of third-down stops, but Texas Tech finished 91st nationally in third-down conversion percentage defense.

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Matt Wells
Record at School: 4-8 (1 year)
Career Record: 48-42 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: David Yost
Defensive Coordinators: Derek Jones, Keith Patterson
Location: Lubbock, TX
Stadium: Jones AT&T Stadium (60,454)

KEY RED RAIDERS

ALAN BOWMAN, QB Has thrown for a total of 3,658 yards in his 11 appearances the past two seasons.

SARODORICK THOMPSON, RB Became the eighth player in Tech history to lead the team in rushing as a freshman.

RIKO JEFFERS, LB A targeting penalty took away a 12-start season from him. He takes over leading tackler Jordyn Brooks' leadership role.

KEY LOSSES

TERENCE STEELE, RT Started 47 games in four years and was a key reason why Tech allowed only 18 sacks in a pass-heavy offense.

JORDYN BROOKS, LB Led the team in tackles with 108 and in tackles for a loss with 20. Seventh in school history with 367 tackles.

BRODERICK WASHINGTON JR., DT Started in all 37 games his final three seasons and led the defensive line in tackles.

RISING STAR

ERIK EZUKANMA led the Red Raiders with 664 receiving yards and was the first Texas Tech freshman to do so since Michael Crabtree in 2007. With T.J. Vasher entering his senior season, Ezukanma is in line to be the next big outside threat for the Red Raiders offense.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at UTEP
Sept.	12	Alabama State
Sept.	19	Arizona
Sept.	26	at Iowa State
Oct.	3	West Virginia
Oct.	15	Baylor
Oct.	24	Texas
Oct.	31	at Oklahoma State
Nov.	7	at Kansas State
Nov.	14	Kansas
Nov.	21	at TCU
Nov.	28	Oklahoma

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 4-8, 2-7 BIG 12

Aug.	31	Montana State	W	45-10
Sept.	8	UTEP	W	38-3
Sept.	14	at Arizona	L	14-28
Sept.	28	at Oklahoma	L	16-55
Oct.	5	Oklahoma State	W	45-35
Oct.	12	at Baylor (ot)	L	30-33
Oct.	19	Iowa State	L	24-34
Oct.	26	at Kansas	L	34-37
Nov.	9	at West Virginia	W	38-17
Nov.	16	TCU	L	31-33
Nov.	23	Kansas State	L	27-30
Nov.	29	at Texas	L	24-49

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	BIG 12	NATIONAL
Scoring	30.5 ppg	6	53
Rushing	149.6 ypg	7	83
Passing	324.7 ypg	1	7
Total	474.3 ypg	2	11
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**BIG 12**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	30.3 ppg	9	84
Rushing	172.5 ypg	9	80
Passing	307.8 ypg	10	128
Total	480.3 ypg	10	127
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**BIG 12**	**NATIONAL**
+4	+0.33	3	38

2020 RECRUITS

1. Loic Fouonji, WR, Midland, TX
2. Ja'Lynn Polk, WR, Lufkin, TX
3. Tahj Brooks, RB, Manor, TX
4. Myles Price, ATH, The Colony, TX
5. Philip Blidi, DE, Portales, NM
6. Donovan Smith, ATH, Wolfforth, TX
7. L.B. Moore, DE, Amarillo, TX
8. Derrick Lewis II, LB, Schertz, TX
9. John Holcomb, TE, Wellington, TX
10. Nate Floyd, CB, College Station, TX
11. J.J. Sparkman, WR, Longview, TX
12. Caleb Rogers, OT, Mansfield, TX
13. Krishon Merriweather, LB, Hazelwood, MO*
14. Larry Moore, OT, Missouri City, TX
15. Ryan Frank, CB, Magnolia, TX
16. Jonathan Davis, S, Dallas, TX
17. Kobee Minor, S, Lake Dallas, TX
18. Ethan Carde, OT, Valrico, FL*
19. Devin Drew, DT, Kansas City, MO*

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Tim Umphrey

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	29.5	73
Defense	26.9	16
Margin	**+2.6**	**37**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	45.1%	33
Defense	42.0%	67
Margin	**+3.1%**	**54**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.1	44
Defense	6.6	119
Margin	**-0.5**	**94**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.3	88
Defense	4.4	53
Margin	**-0.1**	**76**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-7.2	121
Actual	4	38
Margin	**+11.2**	**5**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

8.68%

The Tech defense surrendered far too many big plays. Opponents attempted 403 passes against the Red Raiders last season, and 35 gained 30 yards or more, a rate of 8.68 percent, the highest in the nation.

10.92%

The Red Raiders intercepted 14 passes last season, third in the Big 12. But Tech was credited with just 30 pass breakups — fewer than any other Big 12 defense. The Raiders recorded a pass defensed on just 10.92 percent of their opponents' pass attempts — lowest in the conference and No. 120 overall.

0

Texas Tech was 0–4 in games decided by a single possession last season. The Red Raiders were one of only three FBS teams to finish 0–4 or worse in close games, joining Ole Miss (0–5) and Washington (0–4).

The injury bug hit last season, and Patterson was forced to move players with little to no experience to new positions, which led to big plays for opponents. This season, Patterson has added depth at virtually every spot on the field and moved former freshman All-America DB Adrian Frye from safety back to cornerback, where he feels most comfortable.

Riko Jeffers will have help at filling big shoes in the middle with fellow transfer linebackers Brandon Bouyer-Randle and Krishon Merriweather joining the team. "Krishon Merriweather has hit the ground running, literally and figuratively," Wells says. "The guy can flat run. ... Krishon is going to be a really, really good addition."

Eli Howard brings experience to the defensive line. Now a senior, Howard will bring the rush from the edge while Jaylon Hutchings and Nick McCann will take over the trenches.

Wells took an important step with the hiring of assistants Derek Jones and Kevin Cosgrove. Cosgrove, who will coach the linebackers, made the move to Lubbock following a year at LSU as the lead defensive analyst; he brings 39 years of experience. Jones spent 12 years at Duke, where he mentored some Blue Devils like Ross Cockrell and Jamison Crowder all the way to the NFL.

SPECIALISTS The Red Raiders' kickoff coverage unit was not where special teams coordinator Mark Tommerdahl wanted it to be last season. But the team did have great success in other aspects of the kicking game, as punter Austin McNamara and kicker Trey Wolff became two of the brightest spots for the Red Raiders. McNamara sent 20 of his 59 punts inside the opponent's 20-yard line, with only five touchbacks. Wolff drilled 20-of-22 field goals, with both misses coming from beyond 40 yards. They will both be back this season.

FINAL ANALYSIS This is truly Wells' program, featuring his recruits and his coaching staff. The offense still produces most of the highlights in Lubbock, but improvements on defense could be a quiet game-changer. If the Red Raiders are able to avoid injuries, then this year's Texas Tech squad should be a tough matchup each week and could be bowl eligible at season's end — and for years to come.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**9**	**T.J. Vasher (Sr.)**	82	KeSean Carter (Jr.)
WR	84	Erik Ezukanma (So.)	83	Myller Royals (So.)
WR	**86**	**Dalton Rigdon (Jr.)**	13	McLane Mannix (Sr.)
LT		Josh Burger (Sr.)	65	Zach Adams (Sr.)
LG	**70**	**Weston Wright (So.)**	66	Hakeem White (So.)
C	**73**	**Dawson Deaton (Jr.)**	74	Will Farrar (Jr.)
RG	**56**	**Jack Anderson (Jr.)**	64	Clayton Franks (So.)
RT	68	Casey Verhulst (Jr.)	67	Troy Bradshaw (So.)
TE	15	Travis Koontz (Sr.)	41	Jackson Pace (Jr.)
QB	**10**	**Alan Bowman (So.)**	8	Maverick McIvor (Fr.)
RB	**28**	**SaRodorick Thompson (So.)**	30	Jax Welch (Sr.)

DEFENSE (8)

Returning Starters in Bold

DL	**53**	**Eli Howard (Sr.)**	91	Nelson Mbanasor (Jr.)
DL	98	Nick McCann (Sr.)	90	Devin Drew (Jr.)
DL	**95**	**Jaylon Hutchings (So.)**	97	Tony Bradford Jr. (So.)
OLB	2	Brandon Bouyer-Randle (Sr.)	**37**	**Xavier Benson (So.)**
MLB	1	Krishon Merriweather (Jr.)	20	Kosi Eldridge (Jr.)
MLB	**6**	**Riko Jeffers (Sr.)**	34	Bryce Robinson (Fr.)
SPUR	**23**	**DaMarcus Fields (Sr.)**	24	Adam Beck (Jr.)
CB	**7**	**Adrian Frye (Jr.)**	27	Alex Hogan (So.)
CB	**8**	**Zech McPhearson (Sr.)**	19	DeQuanteous Watts (Fr.)
S	**16**	**Thomas Leggett (Sr.)**	17	John Davis Jr. (Jr.)
S	22	Ja'Marcus Ingram (Sr.)	25	Dadrion Taylor (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	36	Trey Wolff (So.)	**KR**	7	Adrian Frye (Jr.)
P	31	Austin McNamara (So.)	**PR**	42	Chux Nwabuko III (So.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jett Duffey	367	239	2,840	18	5
Alan Bowman	**154**	**101**	**1,020**	**6**	**3**
Austin McNamara	**1**	**1**	**34**	**0**	**0**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
SaRodorick Thompson	**160**	**765**	**4.8**	**12**
Armand Shyne	65	374	5.8	3
Ta'Zhawn Henry	75	340	4.5	3
Jett Duffey	72	212	2.9	1
McLane Mannix	**3**	**37**	**12.3**	**0**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
RJ Turner	45	654	14.5	3
Erik Ezukanma	**42**	**664**	**15.8**	**4**
T.J. Vasher	**42**	**515**	**12.3**	**6**
SaRodorick Thompson	**39**	**154**	**3.9**	**0**
Dalton Rigdon	**34**	**486**	**14.3**	**5**

KICKING: **Trey Wolff, 20-22 FGs, 100 pts.**
TACKLES: Jordyn Brooks, 108; **Riko Jeffers, 76**
SACKS: **Eli Howard, 5.0**
INTERCEPTIONS: Douglas Coleman III, 8

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE RED RAIDERS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP TEXAS TECH

"It's gonna take some time there. You know you'll have depth at the skill positions on offense. You know that you'll have to account for a solid receiving corps every year. That was the makeup of the team for so long. So if they're going to start rolling in new stuff, it's a gradual process. Your personnel dictates your creativity. ... The linebacker they lost (Jordyn Brooks), we're all really glad he's gone. He was the real deal, NFL stuff. You don't replace him. The DC (Keith Patterson) does a really nice job; they were a tough team in the red zone. I think they'll be more and more aggressive, because from what we saw they weren't afraid to roll the dice on calls. That's great until it isn't, and you'll pay the price. ... The running back (SaRodorick Thompson) can really be special if he stays healthy. They have one of the more experienced offensive lines in the league. ... It's really about (Alan) Bowman. He has a history of injuries, but he plays really well when he's healthy. Can he stay together? If so, they're going to be something interesting on offense, because he's a top-level talent. ... I think this is another transition year, but there's a really high upside if the offense clicks and Bowman is healthy. If that happens, they can outscore some teams and scare some others, and Matt Wells and his guys are pretty creative."

WEST VIRGINIA Mountaineers

National Forecast: **56** · Big 12 Prediction: **8** · Projected Record: **5-7, 3-6 Big 12**

Sam James

In Neal Brown's first season with the Mountaineers, West Virginia missed out on a bowl game for the first time since 2013 after a 5–7 campaign. However, there was clear improvement toward the end of the season, with road wins at Kansas State and TCU in November.

West Virginia knew it was going to be a rebuilding year in 2019, and it was, but Brown entered a similar situation at Troy in 2015 before winning 10 games in his second season with the Trojans. Many knew this was going to take time, but improvement needs to become apparent with the Mountaineers in 2020.

OFFENSE Jarret Doege replaced Austin Kendall in the fourth quarter of the loss to Texas Tech in early November last season. After that move, WVU went on to win two of its final three games. After coming from Oklahoma as a transfer, Kendall was inconsistent, completing 61.5 percent of his passes for 1,989 yards, 12 touchdowns and 10 interceptions. Doege, after transferring from Bowling Green, threw for 818 yards with seven TDs to three picks in three-plus games — while maintaining his redshirt. Doege, a junior, has the job for now, but Kendall will have a shot to reclaim it.

The running game was dreadful for the Mountaineers last year, averaging just 73.3 yards per game — 128th in FBS. Gone are Martell Pettaway, who transferred to Middle Tennessee, and Kennedy McKoy, but leading rusher Leddie Brown, a junior, is back after finishing with 367 yards and a touchdown. Fourth-year junior Alec Sinkfield and redshirt freshman Tony Mathis will round out the rest of the backfield.

A vast majority of the running game's troubles could be blamed on the offensive line, which struggled due to injuries and youth. Tackles Colton McKivitz, the 2019 Big 12 Co-Offensive Lineman of the Year, and Kelby Wickline need to be replaced. The interior, which was the weak point, will need to take a step forward.

The wide receiving corps should be the strength of the offense, led by third-year sophomore Sam James (69 catches, 677 yards, two TDs last season). Senior T.J. Simmons, the veteran, averaged 13.0 yards per catch and had four TDs. Sean Ryan (19 catches, 219 yards), Bryce Wheaton (12 catches, 201 yards, two TDs), Ali Jennings (19 catches, 192 yards, TD), and Isaiah Esdale (15 catches, 171 yards, TD) all played significant snaps a year ago.

DEFENSE Under coordinator Vic Koenning, the Mountaineers had rough outings against Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas Tech, but overall, especially toward the end of the season, showed stark improvement.

Lineman Darius Stills flirted with the NFL but decided to return for his senior year after posting 15 tackles for a loss and seven sacks. Younger brother Dante had 11.5 tackles for a loss and seven sacks. Senior Jeffery Pooler Jr. (5.5 TFLs, 2.5 sacks) should round out the starting defensive line, while sophomore Jordan Jefferson and junior Taijh Alston — who suffered a season-ending knee injury after two games last year — will provide depth.

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Neal Brown
Record at School: 5-7 (1 year)
Career Record: 40-23 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Gerad Parker, Chad Scott
Defensive Coordinator: Vic Koenning
Location: Morgantown, WV
Stadium: Milan Puskar Stadium (60,000)

KEY MOUNTAINEERS

JARRET DOEGE, QB Provided the spark that the offense needed, throwing seven touchdowns in three-plus games.

DARIUS STILLS, DL Came back for his senior year after recording 15 TFLs and seven sacks as a junior.

TYKEE SMITH, S Exploded onto the scene as a true freshman with 51 tackles and two interceptions. Always around the ball, and the staff believes he will only get better.

KEY LOSSES

COLTON MCKIVITZ, LT McKivitz provided stability on an offensive line that didn't have much otherwise.

KEITH WASHINGTON II, CB Became WVU's top corner over the last two seasons. There is not much experience left with his departure.

GEORGE CAMPBELL, WR The only receiver lost from last year, Campbell caught a team-leading seven touchdowns and became a steady deep threat.

RISING STAR

Supposed to be a big contributor in 2019, cornerback **DRESHUN MILLER** dealt with injuries all season and did not see the field. A highly touted juco product, Miller, now with a clean bill of health, should help a cornerback group that suffers from inexperience.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	vs. Florida State #
Sept.	12	Eastern Kentucky
Sept.	19	Maryland
Sept.	26	Kansas State
Oct.	3	at Texas Tech
Oct.	10	TCU
Oct.	17	at Texas
Oct.	24	Kansas
Nov.	7	Oklahoma
Nov.	14	at Oklahoma State
Nov.	21	Baylor
Nov.	27	at Iowa State

#Atlanta

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 5-7, 3-6 BIG 12

Aug.	31	James Madison	W	20-13
Sept.	7	at Missouri	L	7-38
Sept.	14	NC State	W	44-27
Sept.	21	at Kansas	W	29-24
Oct.	5	Texas	L	31-42
Oct.	12	Iowa State	L	14-38
Oct.	19	at Oklahoma	L	14-52
Oct.	31	at Baylor	L	14-17
Nov.	9	Texas Tech	L	17-38
Nov.	16	at Kansas State	W	24-20
Nov.	23	Oklahoma State	L	13-20
Nov.	29	at TCU	W	20-17

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	BIG 12	NATIONAL
Scoring	20.6 ppg	10	116
Rushing	73.3 ypg	10	128
Passing	248.7 ypg	6	54
Total	321.9 ypg	10	119
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**BIG 12**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	28.8 ppg	8	73
Rushing	159.4 ypg	7	69
Passing	239.9 ypg	6	88
Total	399.3 ypg	6	74
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**BIG 12**	**NATIONAL**
-6	-0.50	8	103

2020 RECRUITS

1. David Vincent-Okoli, CB, Gaithersburg, MD
2. Chris Mayo, OG, Hightstown, NJ
3. Sam Brown, WR, Bloomingdale, GA
4. Sean Martin, DE, Bluefield, WV
5. Garrett Greene, QB, Tallahassee, FL
6. Zach Frazier, C, Fairmont, WV
7. Devell Washington, WR, Saginaw, MI
8. Akheem Mesidor, DE, Clearwater, FL
9. Lanell Carr, LB, Saint Louis, MO
10. Jacob Gamble, OT, Doylestown, OH*
11. Tairiq Stewart, OG, Cleveland, OH*
12. Taurus Simmons, DE, Savannah, GA
13. James Thomas, ATH, Camilla, GA
14. Jordan White, OG, Hyattsville, MD
15. Reese Smith, WR, Danville, KY
16. Quay Mays, DT, Bradenton, FL*
17. A'varius Sparrow, RB, Orlando, FL
18. Jairo Faverus, CB, Bristol, UK
19. Eddie Watkins, DE, Evergreen, AL
20. Daryl Porter Jr., CB, Fort Lauderdale, FL
21. Jackie Matthews, CB, Pinson, AL*
22. Charles Finley, TE, Wayne, NJ

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Brian McWalters/WVU Athletics

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	29.6	71
Defense	28.8	46
Margin	**+0.8**	**59**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	36.2%	119
Defense	46.1%	112
Margin	**-9.9%**	**125**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	4.9	119
Defense	5.5	52
Margin	**-0.6**	**100**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	3.9	119
Defense	4.8	97
Margin	**-0.9**	**116**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	1.0	57
Actual	-6	100
Margin	**-7.0**	**119**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

1.72

Line yards refers to the amount of rushing yardage credited to a runner's offensive line. West Virginia averaged 1.72 line yards per carry in 2019 — worst in the country.

47.71

West Virginia ball carriers combined for just seven rushing touchdowns (second fewest in FBS) in 334 attempts. The Mountaineers averaged 47.71 rushing attempts per TD run, which ranked No. 129 overall and worst among Power 5 teams last year.

26.7%

Stuff rate is the percentage of running back carries in which an offense is stopped either at or behind the line of scrimmage. West Virginia posted a 26.7 percent stuff rate in 2019, ranking 129th nationally and worst among all Power 5 programs.

Linebacker Jared Bartlett got his feet wet toward the end of his true freshman season, and the coaching staff says he has a lot of upside. He is versatile and could make a splash at bandit, along with junior VanDarius Cowan, the Alabama transfer coming off a knee injury. Junior Josh Chandler, also coming off a knee injury toward the end of last season, finished second on the team with 71 tackles; his instincts allow him to play in the middle. Senior Dylan Tonkery and junior Exree Loe will likely rotate on the weak side.

Keith Washington II and Hakeem Bailey locked down the cornerback spots last season, but both graduated, leaving two key voids on the perimeter. Sophomore Nicktroy Fortune played in 11 games as a true freshman and is likely to grab one spot, but some combination of redshirt freshman Tae Mayo, New Hampshire transfer Alonzo Addae and juco transfer Jackie Matthews will try to take the other. Dreshun Miller, who missed all of last season due to injury, redshirted but was highly touted during his recruitment.

Sophomore Tykee Smith grabbed hold of the Spear safety spot as a true freshman and never let go. He finished fifth on the team with 51 tackles and had two interceptions, including a pick-6. Brown believes senior Sean Mahone can become an NFL player if he continues to play the way he did at the end of last season at Cat, while sophomore Kerry Martin Jr. also played a lot as a true freshman on the back end at free safety.

SPECIALISTS Senior Evan Staley made 11-of-17 field goals but is much more consistent inside 40 yards. Aussie punter Josh Growden is gone, so Kolton McGhee, Leighton Bechdel and Evan Matthes will vie to win the job. Winston Wright Jr. returned a kickoff for a touchdown against Baylor, and the sophomore speedster could lock down kick returns, while Alec Sinkfield is a steady hand on punt returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Mountaineers' offense will go only as far as the offensive line will take it. The running game will need to make major improvements over last season. The defense has the potential to be one of the best units in the Big 12, but it needs to find two cornerbacks quickly. A bowl game is achievable for this team after missing out in 2019.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**13**	**Sam James (So.)**	19	Ali Jennings (So.)
WR	**1**	**T.J. Simmons (Sr.)**	88	Isaiah Esdale (Jr.)
WR	18	Sean Ryan (Jr.)	83	Bryce Wheaton (So.)
LT	71	Junior Uzebu (So.)	55	Parker Moorer (Fr.)
LG	57	Michael Brown (Sr.)	69	Blaine Scott (So.)
C	**76**	**Chase Behrndt (Sr.)**	**68**	**Briason Mays (So.)**
RG	**74**	**James Gmiter (So.)**		Tairiq Stewart (Jr.)
RT	79	John Hughes (Jr.)	50	Brandon Yates (Fr.)
TE	87	Mike O'Laughlin (So.)	85	T.J. Banks (So.)
QB	2	Jarret Doege (Jr.)	**12**	**Austin Kendall (Sr.)**
RB	4	Leddie Brown (Jr.)	20	Alec Sinkfield (Jr.)

DEFENSE (6)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**13**	**Jeffery Pooler Jr. (Sr.)**	12	Taijh Alston (Jr.)
NT	**56**	**Darius Stills (Sr.)**	95	Jordan Jefferson (So.)
DT	55	Dante Stills (Jr.)	52	Jalen Thornton (Fr.)
OLB	50	Jared Bartlett (Fr.)	32	VanDarius Cowan (Jr.)
MLB	**35**	**Josh Chandler (Jr.)**	51	Jake Abbott (Jr.)
OLB	**10**	**Dylan Tonkery (Sr.)**	17	Exree Loe (Jr.)
CB	11	Nicktroy Fortune (So.)	5	Dreshun Miller (Jr.)
CB	20	Tae Mayo (Fr.)		Jackie Matthews (Jr.)
S	**23**	**Tykee Smith (So.)**	39	Dante Bonamico (Sr.)
S	**29**	**Sean Mahone (Sr.)**	19	Noah Guzman (Jr.)
S	15	Kerry Martin Jr. (So.)	22	Jake Long (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	30	Evan Staley (Sr.)	**KR**	16	Winston Wright Jr. (So.)
P	40	Kolton McGhee (Fr.)	**PR**	20	Alec Sinkfield (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Austin Kendall	**304**	**187**	**1,989**	**12**	**10**
Jarret Doege	**120**	**79**	**818**	**7**	**3**
Jack Allison	26	19	144	1	2

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Leddie Brown	**107**	**367**	**3.4**	**1**
Kennedy McKoy	99	323	3.3	3
Austin Kendall	**45**	**91**	**2.0**	**1**
Martell Pettaway	27	72	2.7	2
Alec Sinkfield	**17**	**41**	**2.4**	**0**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Sam James	**69**	**677**	**9.8**	**2**
Kennedy McKoy	37	167	4.5	1
T.J. Simmons	**35**	**455**	**13.0**	**4**
George Campbell	19	469	24.7	7
Sean Ryan	**19**	**219**	**11.5**	**0**

KICKING: **Evan Staley, 11-17 FGs, 54 pts.**
TACKLES: **Sean Mahone, 80; Josh Chandler, 71**
SACKS: **Dante Stills, 7.0; Darius Stills, 7.0**
INTERCEPTIONS: Keith Washington II, 3

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE MOUNTAINEERS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP WEST VIRGINIA

"Neal (Brown) did a really, really underrated job of getting buy-in from the roster. He's young, but he has a lot of experience as a head coach at Troy, and that really showed. They didn't reject change; they rallied. They were in a lot of close games, and they finished with two road wins. Coaches love to build on stuff like that, so I know they're excited. They think they're headed in the right direction. ... Who is the quarterback? Neither guy really owned that position last year, and with injuries it was hard to really evaluate. ... They've got a bunch of running backs but no real home-run hitters. They really need to improve at that position, but that's also on the offensive line. ... They're replacing a lot in the secondary, but overall they're a disciplined, mean group. They did a great job last year putting pieces together and creating an identity. They could really carry the team next year if they can continue to improve. ... There are holes everywhere; this was a really, really thin roster. That makes what Neal's done so far really impressive. They want to be blue collar, they want to be disciplined. That's their plan to close the gaps for now. They need a few years of recruiting, but this coaching staff really understands how to work the unique problems that come with this job."

Big Ten Preview

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

EAST DIVISION

1 *Ohio State* **BUCKEYES** 13-0, 9-0 Big Ten

2 *Penn State* **NITTANY LIONS** 11-1, 8-1 Big Ten

3 *Michigan* **WOLVERINES** 9-3, 6-3 Big Ten

4 *Indiana* **HOOSIERS** 7-5, 4-5 Big Ten

5 *Michigan State* **SPARTANS** 6-6, 4-5 Big Ten

6 *Maryland* **TERRAPINS** 4-8, 2-7 Big Ten

7 *Rutgers* **SCARLET KNIGHTS** 2-10, 1-8 Big Ten

WEST DIVISION

1 *Wisconsin* **BADGERS** 9-4, 7-2 Big Ten

2 *Minnesota* **GOLDEN GOPHERS** 9-3, 6-3 Big Ten

3 *Iowa* **HAWKEYES** 8-4, 5-4 Big Ten

4 *Nebraska* **CORNHUSKERS** 7-5, 4-5 Big Ten

5 *Purdue* **BOILERMAKERS** 6-6, 3-6 Big Ten

6 *Northwestern* **WILDCATS** 5-7, 2-7 Big Ten

7 *Illinois* **FIGHTING ILLINI** 5-7, 2-7 Big Ten

Big Ten Championship: **Ohio State over Wisconsin**

Games to Watch

SEPT. 5
MICHIGAN AT WASHINGTON
Both teams disappointed in 2019, so both will look to get off to a strong start when they face off in Seattle.

SEPT. 12
OHIO STATE AT OREGON
The last time these teams met was in the inaugural College Football Playoff National Championship. Ohio State won that game along with the eight other previous meetings with Oregon.

SEPT. 18
IOWA AT MINNESOTA
Iowa has defeated Minnesota five straight times, but four of those were decided by seven points or fewer.

SEPT. 26
WISCONSIN AT MICHIGAN
Michigan has dominated this series overall, but Wisconsin has won four of the past six meetings. The Wolverines will try to protect the Big House in late September.

OCT. 3
WISCONSIN VS. NOTRE DAME (GREEN BAY, WIS.)
It's been 56 years since these two faced off. The renewal takes place at iconic Lambeau Field.

OCT. 3
PENN STATE AT MICHIGAN
The home team has won four straight in this key matchup, with last season's victory by Penn State the first close game (28–21) of that stretch.

Wisconsin: Peter Brouillet; Ohio State: Bruce Schwartzman

2020 Unit Rankings

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
Illinois	11	12	11	7	13	8	12
Indiana	5	7	6	11	8	10	8
Iowa	10	4	3	5	5	7	6
Maryland	12	13	8	13	14	14	13
Michigan	7	3	5	6	3	4	4
Michigan State	13	8	10	10	7	6	10
Minnesota	2	6	4	4	10	11	7
Nebraska	4	9	12	8	11	9	3
Northwestern	8	10	13	9	9	5	9
Ohio State	1	2	1	1	1	2	1
Penn State	3	1	7	3	2	1	5
Purdue	9	14	2	12	6	12	11
Rutgers	14	11	14	14	12	13	14
Wisconsin	6	5	9	2	4	3	2

Recruiting by School

1. Ohio State
2. Michigan
3. Penn State
4. Nebraska
5. Wisconsin
6. Maryland
7. Purdue
8. Iowa
9. Minnesota
10. Michigan State
11. Northwestern
12. Indiana
13. Rutgers
14. Illinois

Zach Harrison & Shaun Wade

Jack Coan, Cole Van Lanen & Jake Ferguson

2020 Bowl Projections

Belk Bowl: Minnesota vs. Louisville
Cheez-It Bowl: Purdue vs. TCU
Citrus Bowl: Wisconsin vs. Auburn
Music City Bowl: Iowa vs. South Carolina
Outback Bowl: Michigan vs. Tennessee
Pinstripe Bowl: Nebraska vs. Virginia
Quick Lane Bowl: Michigan State vs. Central Michigan
Redbox Bowl: Indiana vs. Washington
Fiesta Bowl: Penn State vs. Oregon
Rose Bowl (CFP): Ohio State vs. Alabama

Big Ten Coordinator Carousel

Indiana: Offense
New: Grant Heard, Nick Sheridan
Old: Kalen DeBoer

Indiana: Defense
New: Kane Wommack
Old: Mark Hagen, Kane Wommack

Michigan State: Offense
New: Scottie Hazelton
Old: Mike Tressel

Minnesota: Offense
New: Mike Sanford Jr., Matt Simon
Old: Kirk Ciarrocca

Minnesota: Defense
New: Joe Harasymiak, Joe Rossi
Old: Joe Rossi

Nebraska: Offense
New: Matt Lubick
Old: Troy Walters

Northwestern: Offense
New: Mike Bajakian
Old: Mick McCall

Ohio State: Defense
New: Kerry Coombs, Greg Mattison
Old: Jeff Hafley, Greg Mattison

Penn State: Offense
New: Tyler Bowen, Kirk Ciarrocca
Old: Ricky Rahne

Purdue: Defense
New: Bob Diaco, Anthony Poindexter
Old: Nick Holt, Anthony Poindexter

Rutgers: Offense
New: Sean Gleeson
Old: John McNulty

Rutgers: Defense
New: Robb Smith
Old: Andy Buh, Noah Joseph

OCT. 10
MICHIGAN AT MICHIGAN STATE
With back-to-back wins for the first time since 2006-07, has Michigan regained control of its in-state rivalry with Michigan State?

OCT. 10
MINNESOTA AT WISCONSIN
The overall series is extremely close (61–60–8), but it's been all Wisconsin this century. The Badgers are 17–3 vs. Minnesota since 2000.

OCT. 24
OHIO STATE AT PENN STATE
Ohio State has won three in a row against Penn State, but those victories haven't come easy. The Nittany Lions will get another shot in Happy Valley.

NOV. 14
NEBRASKA AT IOWA
Iowa has beaten Nebraska five straight times, but the Cornhuskers' last two victories have come in Iowa City (2014, '12).

NOV. 28
WISCONSIN AT IOWA
These two teams have combined for five of the six Big Ten West titles since the conference went to that alignment.

NOV. 28
MICHIGAN AT OHIO STATE
Ohio State has beaten Michigan eight straight times, and the Wolverines' last victory over the Buckeyes in Columbus came back in 2000.

Justin Fields

Big Ten Returning Leaders

Passing	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	AVG/G
Tanner Morgan, Minnesota	318	210	66.0	3,253	30	7	250.2
Justin Fields, Ohio State	354	238	67.2	3,273	41	3	233.8
Peyton Ramsey,* Indiana	300	204	68.0	2,454	13	5	223.1

Rushing	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
Elijah Collins, Michigan State	222	988	4.5	5	58	76.0
Journey Brown, Penn State	129	890	6.9	12	85	68.5
Stevie Scott III, Indiana	178	845	4.7	10	57	65.0

Receiving	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
Rashod Bateman, Minnesota	60	1,219	20.3	11	66	93.8
David Bell, Purdue	86	1,035	12.0	7	54	86.3
Whop Philyor, Indiana	70	1,002	14.3	5	56	83.5

Tackles: Micah Parsons, Penn State (109), Tyshon Fogg, Rutgers (104)
Sacks: George Karlaftis, Purdue (7.5), Derrick Barnes, Purdue (7.5)
Interceptions: Seven players tied with 3

*Now a graduate transfer at Northwestern

2019 Big Ten Standings

EAST	BIG TEN	OVERALL	WEST	BIG TEN	OVERALL
Ohio State	9-0	13-1	Wisconsin	7-2	10-4
Penn State	7-2	11-2	Minnesota	7-2	11-2
Michigan	6-3	9-4	Iowa	6-3	10-3
Indiana	5-4	8-5	Illinois	4-5	6-7
Michigan State	4-5	7-6	Purdue	3-6	4-8
Maryland	1-8	3-9	Nebraska	3-6	5-7
Rutgers	0-9	2-10	Northwestern	1-8	3-9

2019 Bowl Results

Redbox Bowl: California 35, Illinois 20
Pinstripe Bowl: Michigan State 27, Wake Forest 21
Holiday Bowl: Iowa 49, USC 24
Gator Bowl: Tennessee 23, Indiana 22
Outback Bowl: Minnesota 31, Auburn 24
Citrus Bowl: Alabama 35, Michigan 16
Cotton Bowl: Penn State 53, Memphis 39
Rose Bowl: Oregon 28, Wisconsin 27
Fiesta Bowl (CFP Semifinal): Clemson 29, Ohio State 23

2019 Big Ten Team Stats & Rankings

Offense

	SCORING	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
Illinois	26.7 (8)	144.2 (9)	185.3 (11)	329.5 (12)
Indiana	31.8 (5)	130.4 (12)	302.4 (2)	432.8 (3)
Iowa	25.8 (9T)	137.6 (10)	228.9 (7)	366.5 (10)
Maryland	25.3 (11)	169.4 (7)	174.0 (12)	343.4 (11)
Michigan	31.7 (6)	150.7 (8)	250.8 (5)	401.5 (7)
Michigan State	22.4 (12)	127.2 (13)	244.8 (6)	371.9 (9)
Minnesota	34.1 (3T)	178.7 (6)	253.3 (4)	432.0 (4)
Nebraska	28.0 (7)	203.3 (3)	212.6 (9)	415.8 (5)
Northwestern	16.3 (13)	180.1 (5)	117.0 (14)	297.1 (13)
Ohio State	46.9 (1)	266.8 (1)	263.1 (3)	529.9 (1)
Penn State	35.8 (2)	190.6 (4)	221.3 (8)	411.9 (6)
Purdue	25.8 (9T)	83.3 (14)	309.9 (1)	393.2 (8)
Rutgers	13.3 (14)	133.8 (11)	139.3 (13)	273.1 (14)
Wisconsin	34.1 (3T)	233.1 (2)	200.1 (10)	433.2 (2)

Defense

	SCORING	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
Illinois	26.2 (10)	195.5 (13)	212.9 (9)	408.5 (11)
Indiana	24.4 (9)	138.5 (9)	213.7 (10)	352.2 (9)
Iowa	14.0 (2)	112.5 (4)	195.7 (5)	308.2 (5)
Maryland	34.7 (13)	177.9 (10)	271.3 (14)	449.2 (14)
Michigan	20.7 (5)	121.7 (6)	185.5 (3)	307.2 (4)
Michigan State	22.5 (6T)	113.8 (5)	207.8 (8)	321.6 (6)
Minnesota	22.5 (6T)	122.4 (7)	184.2 (2)	306.6 (3)
Nebraska	27.8 (11)	188.1 (11)	200.8 (7)	388.8 (10)
Northwestern	23.6 (8)	136.9 (8)	198.8 (6)	335.7 (7)
Ohio State	13.7 (1)	103.7 (3)	156.0 (1)	259.7 (1)
Penn State	16.0 (3)	95.0 (1)	251.5 (13)	346.5 (8)
Purdue	30.6 (12)	192.5 (12)	243.8 (12)	436.3 (13)
Rutgers	36.7 (14)	201.1 (14)	232.5 (11)	433.6 (12)
Wisconsin	16.9 (4)	99.8 (2)	187.4 (4)	287.1 (2)

Fields: Ohio State Athletics; Hutchinson: Michigan Athletics; Brown: Bruce Schwartzman

ALL-BIG TEN TEAM

First-Team Offense

QB	**Justin Fields**	6-3	228	Jr.	Ohio State
RB	**Journey Brown**	5-11	216	Jr.	Penn State
RB	**Trey Sermon**	6-0	221	Sr.	Ohio State
AP	**Rondale Moore**	5-9	180	So.	Purdue
WR	**Rashod Bateman**	6-2	210	Jr.	Minnesota
WR	**Chris Olave**	6-1	188	Jr.	Ohio State
TE	**Pat Freiermuth**	6-5	259	Jr.	Penn State
C	**Tyler Linderbaum**	6-3	286	So.	Iowa
OL	**Cole Van Lanen**	6-5	312	Sr.	Wisconsin
OL	**Wyatt Davis**	6-4	315	Jr.	Ohio State
OL	**Rashawn Slater**	6-3	305	Sr.	Northwestern
OL	**Alaric Jackson**	6-6	320	Sr.	Iowa

Journey Brown

Aidan Hutchinson

First-Team Defense

DL	**Shaka Toney**	6-3	236	Sr.	Penn State
DL	**Kwity Paye**	6-4	277	Sr.	Michigan
DL	**Aidan Hutchinson**	6-6	278	Jr.	Michigan
DL	**George Karlaftis**	6-4	265	So.	Purdue
LB	**Micah Parsons**	6-3	244	Jr.	Penn State
LB	**Paddy Fisher**	6-4	246	Sr.	Northwestern
LB	**Jack Sanborn**	6-2	232	Jr.	Wisconsin
CB	**Shaun Wade**	6-1	195	Jr.	Ohio State
CB	**Ambry Thomas**	6-0	182	Sr.	Michigan
S	**Eric Burrell**	6-0	195	Sr.	Wisconsin
S	**Dax Hill**	6-0	190	So.	Michigan

First-Team Specialists

K	**Keith Duncan**	5-10	180	Sr.	Iowa
P	**Blake Hayes**	6-6	230	Sr.	Illinois
KR	**Ihmir Smith-Marsette**	6-1	183	Sr.	Iowa
PR	**Jack Dunn**	5-7	174	Sr.	Wisconsin

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	**Tanner Morgan**	6-2	215	Jr.	Minnesota
RB	**Stevie Scott III**	6-2	231	Jr.	Indiana
RB	**Mohamed Ibrahim**	5-10	210	Jr.	Minnesota
AP	**Tyler Goodson**	5-10	190	So.	Iowa
WR	**David Bell**	6-2	210	So.	Purdue
WR	**Whop Philyor**	5-11	177	Sr.	Indiana
TE	**Peyton Hendershot**	6-4	250	Jr.	Indiana
C	**Josh Myers**	6-5	312	Jr.	Ohio State
OL	**Logan Bruss**	6-5	310	Jr.	Wisconsin
OL	**Jalen Mayfield**	6-5	319	Jr.	Michigan
OL	**Blaise Andries**	6-6	325	Jr.	Minnesota
OL	**Thayer Munford**	6-6	315	Sr.	Ohio State

Tanner Morgan
Minnesota

Tyler Goodson
Iowa

Wan'Dale Robinson
Nebraska

Blake Gallagher
Northwestern

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	**Zach Harrison**	6-6	265	So.	Ohio State
DL	**Chauncey Golston**	6-5	270	Sr.	Iowa
DL	**PJ Mustipher**	6-4	305	Jr.	Penn State
DL	**Isaiahh Loudermilk**	6-7	293	Sr.	Wisconsin
LB	**Antjuan Simmons**	6-0	216	Sr.	Michigan State
LB	**Cam McGrone**	6-1	232	Jr.	Michigan
LB	**Baron Browning**	6-3	240	Sr.	Ohio State
CB	**Tariq Castro-Fields**	6-0	190	Sr.	Penn State
CB	**Tiawan Mullen**	5-10	176	So.	Indiana
S	**Sydney Brown**	6-0	210	Jr.	Illinois
S	**Lamont Wade**	5-9	188	Sr.	Penn State

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	**Blake Haubeil**	6-3	230	Sr.	Ohio State
P	**Adam Korsak**	6-1	184	Sr.	Rutgers
KR	**Aron Cruickshank**	5-9	155	Jr.	Rutgers
PR	**Riley Lees**	6-0	201	Sr.	Northwestern

THIRD-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	**Sean Clifford**	6-2	219	Jr.	Penn State
RB	**Zach Charbonnet**	6-1	220	So.	Michigan
RB	**Elijah Collins**	6-0	217	So.	Michigan State
AP	**Wan'Dale Robinson**	5-10	190	So.	Nebraska
WR	**Nico Collins**	6-4	222	Sr.	Michigan
WR	**Jahan Dotson**	5-11	184	Jr.	Penn State
TE	**Jake Ferguson**	6-5	246	Jr.	Wisconsin
C	**Michal Menet**	6-4	302	Sr.	Penn State
OL	**Brenden Jaimes**	6-6	300	Sr.	Nebraska
OL	**Daniel Faalele**	6-9	400	Jr.	Minnesota
OL	**Alex Palczewski**	6-6	300	Sr.	Illinois
OL	**Kendrick Green**	6-4	310	Jr.	Illinois

THIRD-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	**Jacub Panasiuk**	6-3	245	Sr.	Michigan State
DL	**Carlo Kemp**	6-3	286	Sr.	Michigan
DL	**Tyreke Smith**	6-4	267	Jr.	Ohio State
DL	**Jerome Johnson**	6-3	304	Sr.	Indiana
LB	**Jake Hansen**	6-1	225	Sr.	Illinois
LB	**Micah McFadden**	6-2	239	Jr.	Indiana
LB	**Blake Gallagher**	6-1	235	Sr.	Northwestern
CB	**Coney Durr**	5-10	200	Sr.	Minnesota
CB	**Dicaprio Bootle**	5-10	195	Sr.	Nebraska
S	**Nick Cross**	6-1	212	So.	Maryland
S	**Jack Koerner**	6-0	204	Jr.	Iowa

THIRD-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	**J.D. Dellinger**	6-2	195	Sr.	Purdue
P	**Drue Chrisman**	6-3	222	Sr.	Ohio State
KR	**Giles Jackson**	5-9	188	So.	Michigan
PR	**Rondale Moore**	5-9	180	So.	Purdue

Morgan: Minnesota Athletics; Goodson: Iowa Athletics; Robinson: Nebraska Athletics; Gallagher: Peter Brouillet

INDIANA Hoosiers

National Forecast: **40** · Big Ten East Prediction: **4** · Projected Record: **7-5, 4-5 Big Ten**

Whop Philyor

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Tom Allen
Record at School: 18-20 (3+ years)
Career Record: 18-20 (3+ years)
Offensive Coordinators: Grant Heard, Nick Sheridan
Defensive Coordinator: Kane Wommack
Location: Bloomington, IN
Stadium: Memorial Stadium (52,656)

KEY HOOSIERS

MICHAEL PENIX JR., QB Dynamic playmaker who completed nearly 69 percent of his throws while generating nearly 1,400 yards and 10 touchdowns.

WHOP PHILYOR, WR Undersized playmaker who turns tiny openings into large gains.

MICAH MCFADDEN, LB Powerful force who sheds blocks easily and excels against the running game. Led the Hoosiers with 61 tackles.

KEY LOSSES

PEYTON RAMSEY, QB Rallied the Hoosiers to eight-win season; completed 68 percent of his throws for 2,454 yards and 13 touchdowns while also running for seven TDs.

REAKWON JONES, LB Veteran emotional leader who finished second on the team with 55 tackles.

SIMON STEPANIAK, OL Tireless, versatile performer capable of playing multiple positions across the offensive front.

RISING STAR

DAVID ELLIS made solid contributions returning kickoffs as a freshman, but he is primed to generate yardage running and receiving. Ellis has the speed and hands to contribute at wide receiver but can also be a great change-of-pace option in the backfield.

The growth of Tom Allen's program was confirmed in 2019 when the Hoosiers celebrated their first eight-win season in 26 years but also lamented the two games they gave away, including the Gator Bowl to Tennessee. Indiana also learned success has its price as it lost three assistant coaches, its top two strength and conditioning coaches (to Alabama) and multiple players to transfer.

That said, the Hoosiers appear primed to make back-to-back bowl games for only the second time in three decades with 17 returning starters, including nine on a faster, more physical defense.

OFFENSE Michael Penix Jr. unseated Peyton Ramsey at quarterback last season but was sidelined with a knee injury after winning two Big Ten Freshman of the Week awards. Penix has a strong, accurate left arm and does not force throws into coverage.

Penix has added 15 pounds to his wiry, 6'3" frame after being stopped by injuries in consecutive seasons. With Ramsey transferring to Northwestern, new offensive coordinator Nick Sheridan will depend on Jack Tuttle, a four-star who transferred from Utah, to back up Penix.

Stevie Scott III is a durable between-the-tackles back who ran for 10 TDs in each of his first two seasons. He's not a breakaway threat, but sophomore Sampson James showed that skill while running for 118 yards at Purdue. Although David Ellis is a wideout, his ability as a running back will get him snaps in several formations.

The Hoosiers are also stacked at the receiver position. Whop Philyor operates with energy and determination out of the slot. He led IU in receiving yards with 1,002 and had four 100-yard games. Ty Fryfogle and Miles Marshall will be pushed by Ellis on the outside.

Tight end will remain a question mark until IU administrators make a determination on the status of Peyton Hendershot, who was suspended during the offseason. Matt Bjorson gets the job if Hendershot doesn't return.

As always, the offensive line is where Indiana needs improvement in talent and depth to hold up against the more talented opponents in the Big Ten East. Tackle Matthew Bedford has the athleticism to emerge as a star, and mammoth bookend Caleb Jones (6'8", 362) could join him with improved footwork. Allen believes that Dylan Powell, a graduate transfer from Stanford, will be an immediate contributor at guard. This is the unit where the Hoosiers cannot afford injuries.

DEFENSE Allen surrendered defensive play-calling to coordinator Kane Wommack last season. The Hoosiers allowed 71.6 fewer yards and 5.5 fewer points per game. With nine returning starters, the IU defense should continue to improve under Allen's preferred 4-2-5 alignment.

Returning starters Jerome Johnson and Demarcus Elliott will be pushed by sophomore Sio Nofoagatoto'a and the arrival of Stanford grad transfer Jovan Swann, who had 10 sacks the last two seasons for the Cardinal. Johnson and Elliott were the top two tacklers on the line. Expect the Hoosiers to rotate all four players.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	at Wisconsin
Sept.	12	Western Kentucky
Sept.	19	Ball State
Sept.	26	at Connecticut
Oct.	10	Maryland
Oct.	17	at Rutgers
Oct.	24	Michigan State
Oct.	31	Penn State
Nov.	7	at Ohio State
Nov.	14	Illinois
Nov.	21	at Michigan
Nov.	28	Purdue

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5, 5-4 BIG TEN

Aug.	31	vs. Ball State #	W	34-24
Sept.	7	Eastern Illinois	W	52-0
Sept.	14	Ohio State	L	10-51
Sept.	21	Connecticut	W	38-3
Sept.	28	at Michigan State	L	31-40
Oct.	12	Rutgers	W	35-0
Oct.	19	at Maryland	W	34-28
Oct.	26	at Nebraska	W	38-31
Nov.	2	Northwestern	W	34-3
Nov.	16	at Penn State	L	27-34
Nov.	23	Michigan	L	14-39
Nov.	30	at Purdue	W	44-41
Jan.	2	vs. Tennessee %	L	22-23

#Indianapolis %Gator Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	B1G	NATIONAL
Scoring	31.8 ppg	5	43
Rushing	130.4 ypg	12	106
Passing	302.4 ypg	2	15
Total	432.8 ypg	3	41
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	24.4 ppg	9	45
Rushing	138.5 ypg	9	43
Passing	213.7 ypg	10	46
Total	352.2 ypg	9	36
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
+2	+0.15	6	50

2020 RECRUITS

1. Rashawn Williams, WR, Detroit, MI
2. Damarjhe Lewis, DT, Griffin, GA
3. Kahlil Benson, OG, Southaven, MS
4. Caleb Murphy, DE, Campbellsburg, IN
5. Tim Baldwin Jr., RB, Nokesville, VA
6. Lem Watley-Neely, CB, Harper Woods, MI
7. David Baker, WR, Indianapolis, IN
8. Christopher Keys, CB, Collins, MS
9. Jalen Mayala, DE, Lawrenceville, GA
10. Dexter Williams II, QB, Macon, GA
11. AJ Barner, TE, Aurora, OH
12. Bryson Bonds, S, Crowley, TX
13. Luke Wiginton, OT, Fort Wayne, IN
14. Luke Haggard, OT, Santa Rosa, CA*
15. Brady Feeney, OG, Saint Louis, MO
16. Ty Wise, LB, Carmel, IN
17. Javon Swinton, ATH, Stafford, VA
18. Randy Holtz, OT, Fort Wayne, IN
19. Cameron Knight, OG, Noblesville, IN

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Missy Minear/Indiana Athletics

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	30.1	53
Defense	27.6	27
Margin	**+2.5**	**38**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	45.7%	25
Defense	40.9%	57
Margin	**+4.8%**	**37**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.0	55
Defense	5.4	45
Margin	**+0.6**	**40**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.6	66
Defense	4.6	71
Margin	**+0.0**	**72**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	0.5	63
Actual	2	50
Margin	**+1.5**	**49**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

7.66%

Explosive plays refer to rushing attempts that gain 10 yards or more, and pass plays of over 30 yards. Indiana recorded an explosive play on 7.66 percent of its offensive snaps in 2019, which ranked No. 111 in the country and No. 11 in the Big Ten.

9.80%

Only 13 FBS teams held their opponents to an explosive run rate of 10 percent or less. Indiana, which allowed only 45 of the 459 rushing attempts it faced to gain 10 yards or more (9.80 percent), ranked No. 11 nationally and fourth in the Big Ten.

22.5%

Stuff rate is the percentage of plays in which a running back is stopped at or behind the line of scrimmage. Indiana running backs combined for a stuff rate of 22.5 percent on offense in 2019, which ranked No. 110 in the country and 12th in the Big Ten.

The athletic James Head Jr. is a force on the edge. Michael Ziemba emerged on the other edge as the team's most improved player, making 33 tackles in nine starts.

Linebacker is another strength. Micah McFadden is a tough, determined inside linebacker who led the team in tackles in his first season as a starter. Cam Jones creates turnovers and opponents' indecision with his speed and nose for the football. Marcelino Ball, the hybrid Husky linebacker, returns for his fourth season as a starter.

The secondary is no longer a target. Allen has called sophomore Tiawan Mullen as talented as any cornerback he has coached. As a true freshman, Mullen drew the top receivers over the final half of the season. Reese Taylor, a converted quarterback, and Jaylin Williams will share the other corner. The Hoosiers also return experience at the safety positions.

SPECIALISTS Special teams are critical for teams like Indiana that have a small margin of error against more talented opponents. Charles Campbell takes over for Logan Justus as placekicker. Campbell made a critical 41-yarder after Justus misfired three times against Purdue. Punter Haydon Whitehead returns after he was granted a sixth season for medical hardship. His leg is accurate, not booming.

The return game looks solid and experienced. Ellis averaged nearly 21 yards on kickoff returns, while Philyor made few mistakes handling punt returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS This is the most athletic and talented Indiana team since the Bill Mallory era nearly 30 years ago. The Hoosiers have productive, experienced players at every position. They have finally improved their depth on defense, leaving only questions about their ability to withstand injuries on the offensive line.

If they could shock Wisconsin in their Friday night Sept. 4 opener in Madison, the Hoosiers would likely be favored in their next six games.

The key, of course, will be the health of Penix, who failed to finish his first two seasons. With Ramsey gone, there is not a proven backup at quarterback. With a ceiling of nine wins and a floor of five, Indiana is positioned for its first back-to-back seasons of at least seven wins since 1988.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR	13	Miles Marshall (So.)	18	Jacolby Hewitt (So.)
WR	**1**	**Whop Philyor (Sr.)**	10	David Ellis (So.)
WR	**3**	**Ty Fryfogle (Sr.)**	17	Jordan Jakes (Fr.)
LT	**77**	**Caleb Jones (Jr.)**	66	Aidan Rafferty (So.)
LG	56	Mike Katic (Fr.)	72	Dylan Powell (Sr.)
C	**57**	**Harry Crider (Sr.)**	79	Charlie O'Connor (So.)
RG	51	Mackenzie Nworah (Sr.)	73	Tim Weaver (Fr.)
RT	**76**	**Matthew Bedford (So.)**	78	Britt Beery (Jr.)
TE	**86**	**Peyton Hendershot (Jr.)**	89	Matt Bjorson (Jr.)
QB	**9**	**Michael Penix Jr. (So.)**	14	Jack Tuttle (So.)
RB	**8**	**Stevie Scott III (Jr.)**	24	Sampson James (So.)

DEFENSE (9)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**6**	**James Head Jr. (Jr.)**	41	Beau Robbins (Fr.)
DT	50	Sio Nofoagatoto'a (So.)	**94**	**Demarcus Elliott (Jr.)**
DT	**98**	**Jerome Johnson (Sr.)**	55	C.J. Person (Fr.)
DE	**87**	**Michael Ziemba (Sr.)**	92	Alfred Bryant (Jr.)
MLB	**47**	**Micah McFadden (Jr.)**	8	James Miller (So.)
OLB	4	Cam Jones (Jr.)	46	Aaron Casey (So.)
HUS	9	**Marcelino Ball (Sr.)**	31	Bryant Fitzgerald (Jr.)
CB	**3**	**Tiawan Mullen (So.)**	19	Josh Sanguinetti (Fr.)
CB	2	Reese Taylor (Jr.)	**23**	**Jaylin Williams (Jr.)**
S	27	Devon Matthews (Jr.)	17	Raheem Layne (Sr.)
S	22	Jamar Johnson (Jr.)	**5**	**Juwan Burgess (Jr.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	93	Charles Campbell (So.)	**KR**	10	David Ellis (So.)
P	94	Haydon Whitehead (Sr.)	**PR**	1	Whop Philyor (Sr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Peyton Ramsey	300	204	2,454	13	5
Michael Penix Jr.	**160**	**110**	**1,394**	**10**	**4**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Stevie Scott III	**178**	**845**	**4.7**	**10**
Sampson James	**81**	**275**	**3.4**	**3**
Peyton Ramsey	97	252	2.6	7
Michael Penix Jr.	**22**	**119**	**5.4**	**2**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Whop Philyor	**70**	**1,002**	**14.3**	**5**
Peyton Hendershot	**52**	**622**	**12.0**	**4**
Ty Fryfogle	**45**	**604**	**13.4**	**3**
Nick Westbrook	42	572	13.6	5
Stevie Scott III	**26**	**211**	**8.1**	**1**

KICKING: Logan Justus, 17-21 FGs, 96 pts.
TACKLES: **Micah McFadden, 61**; Reakwon Jones, 55
SACKS: **Jerome Johnson, 5.0**; Allen Stallings IV, 4.0
INTERCEPTIONS: **Jamar Johnson, 2; Micah McFadden, 2**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE HOOSIERS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP INDIANA

"They've done a really good job of building, and then they finally got over that hump. … (Michael) Penix a really good player, but he's got to prove he can get through a full season to break through. A lot of that comes down to how he's used. (Peyton) Ramsey wasn't really a backup, it was more like a rotation, but they're a much better and more dynamic team when Penix is in there. (Nick) Sheridan is a really experienced guy, but this is his biggest play-calling job; it will be interesting to see how much they move away from a system that worked. … When you lose your strength and conditioning staff to Alabama, you're really doing something right. That's a big hole to fill because this has never been a team with a killer two-deep. Health is huge for them. … The next step for them is to be competitive against the better teams. They've made a living scheduling easy wins, which is the right thing to do, but now that they're over the hump and went to a bowl, you'd like to see them compete and win those bigger conference games. … They've done a really nice job recruiting in the state, and they pulled a defensive lineman away from the SEC. … A six-win season should be considered a huge achievement, but if Penix stays healthy and the OC replacement works out, they could ride the offense to something bigger."

MARYLAND Terrapins

National Forecast: **86** · Big Ten East Prediction: **6** · Projected Record: **4-8, 2-7 Big Ten**

Josh Jackson

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Mike Locksley
Record at School: 4-14 (1+ years)
Career Record: 6-40 (4+ years)
Offensive Coordinators: Scottie Montgomery, Joker Phillips
Defensive Coordinator: Jon Hoke
Location: College Park, MD
Stadium: Maryland Stadium (51,802)

KEY TERRAPINS

JOSH JACKSON, QB Needs to be the Jackson who started the season, not the one beaten down as 2019 wore on.

DONTAY DEMUS JR., WR Led a deep corps of WRs with 41 catches for 625 yards and six TDs; has size and can make plays downfield.

NICK CROSS, FS An honorable mention All-Big Ten selection by the coaches; played in every game as a freshman. He. Can. Play.

KEY LOSSES

JAVON LEAKE, RB Averaged 7.2 yards per carry and led Terps with 736 rushing yards, 10 total TDs and 26.8-yard KO return average.

ANTOINE BROOKS JR., DB Terps' leading tackler and a ballhawk extraordinaire.

ANTHONY MCFARLAND JR., RB Nicked up last season and still managed 5.4-yard average and eight TDs as part of Terrapins' two-headed tailback monster.

RISING STAR

This needs to be **PENY BOONE**, the four-star ground-and-pounder from Detroit. The two-time high school state champ had 1,282 yards, a 9.9-yard average and 22 TDs last year. At 6'1", 230 pounds, he can move the chains, keep the defense off the field and take some heat off Josh Jackson.

Head coach Mike Locksley insisted on calling his first season back at Maryland "Year Zero," and that makes this "Year One" in his neo-nomenclature. Whatever you call it, the Terrapins need to start taking major steps to ensure that Locksley keeps getting to count his years running the show.

Plucked fresh off the Nick Saban Coaching Reclamation Tree, hometown guy Locksley saw his own sapling program collapse in a 3–9 campaign that ended with seven straight losses. All the depth issues one would expect in a program that had had three different head coaches in five years were exposed.

Then a team that desperately needed a full spring practice got none and is plugging in a lot of new pieces in "Year One."

Locksley understands the culture and has a proven track record in recruiting. This year's haul has been rated a top-35 class, and there are few Power 5 programs that needed such a result more than Maryland.

OFFENSE Virginia Tech transfer Josh Jackson appeared to be the answered prayer to Maryland's seemingly annual quarterback quandary, but after a fast start, his season deteriorated just like the team's did. His 11 touchdown passes in the first eight games were the most by a Terrapin since 2010. But Jackson would finish with only a 47.3 percent completion percentage, 12 touchdowns and six interceptions. He was nagged by injuries, missing a couple of games, and limited in others, and he played behind the Big Ten's poorest pass blocking (3.2 sacks allowed per game). The job is his unless the uber-athletic Lance LeGendre makes a major move.

Either way, the quarterback will have an array of experienced wide receivers, some talented new running backs and an offensive line that … well, fingers are crossed.

Big, strong Dontay Demus Jr. and his 41 catches for a 15.2-yard average and six TDs are back, as is redshirt senior DJ Turner, who saw his season ended early by off-the-field issues. Turner can make plays out of the slot and in the return game. Tight end Chigoziem Okonkwo and wideouts Brian Cobbs, Carlos Carriere and Darryl Jones all saw a lot of action in 2019. Now make room for 2018 sensation Jeshaun Jones, back from an ACL injury, and more room for incoming four-star freshman Rakim Jarrett, who had committed to LSU but flipped to the Terrapins.

Tayon Fleet-Davis, the lone holdover from a backfield that was Maryland's strength, is back to pick up tough yardage, and senior Jake Funk helps on third downs. They'll give way to a pair of freshmen — 6'1", 230-pound Peny Boone out of Detroit, a power runner, and Isaiah Jacobs, a breakaway back out of Owasso, Okla.

Starting hulking tackles Marcus Minor and Jaelyn Duncan return up front, along with center Johnny Jordan. This unit was inconsistent in 2019 but had some success in the run game. Depth is again an issue.

DEFENSE There are a lot of new faces on defense. It's what you'd expect after a defensive debacle in which the Terrapins were last in the Big Ten in total defense

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Towson
Sept.	12	Northern Illinois
Sept.	19	at West Virginia
Oct.	3	Minnesota
Oct.	10	at Indiana
Oct.	17	at Northwestern
Oct.	24	Wisconsin
Oct.	31	Rutgers
Nov.	7	at Michigan
Nov.	14	Ohio State
Nov.	21	at Penn State
Nov.	28	Michigan State

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 3-9, 1-8 BIG TEN

Aug.	31	Howard	W	79-0
Sept.	7	Syracuse	W	63-20
Sept.	14	at Temple	L	17-20
Sept.	28	Penn State	L	0-59
Oct.	5	at Rutgers	W	48-7
Oct.	12	at Purdue	L	14-40
Oct.	19	Indiana	L	28-34
Oct.	26	at Minnesota	L	10-52
Nov.	2	Michigan	L	7-38
Nov.	9	at Ohio State	L	14-73
Nov.	23	Nebraska	L	7-54
Nov.	30	at Michigan State	L	16-19

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	B1G	NATIONAL
Scoring	25.3 ppg	11	94
Rushing	169.4 ypg	7	55
Passing	174.0 ypg	12	114
Total	343.4 ypg	11	109
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	34.7 ppg	13	115
Rushing	177.9 ypg	10	83
Passing	271.3 ypg	14	116
Total	449.2 ypg	14	109
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
-5	-0.42	11	97

2020 RECRUITS

1. Rakim Jarrett, WR, Washington, DC
2. Ruben Hyppolite II, LB, Hollywood, FL
3. Peny Boone, RB, Detroit, MI
4. Osita Smith, S, Milford, CT
5. Isaiah Jacobs, RB, Owasso, OK
6. Corey Dyches, WR, Oxon Hill, MD
7. DeaJaun McDougle, WR, Deerfield Beach, FL
8. Tarheeb Still, CB, Sicklerville, NJ
9. Beau Brade, S, Clarksville, MD
10. Jakorian Bennett, CB, Mobile, AL*
11. Riyad Wilmot, DE, Fort Lauderdale, FL
12. Ami Finau, DT, Euless, TX*
13. Mosiah Nasili-Kite, DE, Puyallup, WA*
14. Frankie Burgess, LB, Pahokee, FL
15. Almosse Titi, DT, Tampa, FL*
16. Khristopher Love, OG, Fort Lauderdale, FL
17. Devyn King, CB, Gardena, CA
18. Nick DeGennaro, WR, Princeton NJ
19. Ja'Khi Green, OT, Baltimore, MD
20. Shane Mosley, CB, Havertown, PA
21. Glen Miller, S, Orange Park, FL
22. Ameilo Moran, OT, Virginia Beach, VA*
23. DJ Glaze, OT, Charlotte, NC
24. Tre Smith, DT, Frostburg, MD
25. Zachary Perkins, OT, Tampa, FL
26. TJ Kautai, LB, Euless, TX*
27. Johari Branch, OG, Chicago, IL*

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Maryland Athletics

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	30.4	50
Defense	30.5	95
Margin	**-0.1**	**71**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	36.6%	116
Defense	45.6%	107
Margin	**-9.0%**	**121**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.4	95
Defense	5.9	87
Margin	**-0.5**	**99**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.5	73
Defense	5.0	107
Margin	**-0.5**	**99**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-1.1	75
Actual	-5	96
Margin	**-4.0**	**97**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

25:45

Maryland allowed its opponents to dominate time of possession in 2019. The Terrapins possessed the football for just 25:45 per contest last season, which ranked at the bottom of the Big Ten. Only Utah State (24:53) held the ball less last year among FBS teams.

4.34

When adjusting for lost yardage due to sacks, Maryland averaged 4.34 total passing yards per attempt in 2019. The Terrapins ranked No. 127 nationally. Only Northwestern (3.70) was worse among both Big Ten and Power 5 teams.

0.13

Expected Points Added is a numerical measure of the impact of a single play based on down, distance and yard line. Maryland ranked last in the Big Ten and ranked No. 113 nationally in Defensive EPA (0.13).

(449.2 yards), pass defense (271.3 yards) and opponent first downs (23.0), and next to last — thank you, Rutgers — in several more categories.

Olu Oluwatimi is back at nose tackle, and Sam Okuayinonu and Durell Nchami have experience, but the Terrapins got pushed around last year. They will again unless they can show improvement. Junior college transfers Mosiah Nasili-Kite and tackle Ami Finau will play right away.

There's some talent in the back seven. Linebacker Shaq Smith was hampered by injuries and played out of position at the Jack end. He, Ayinde Eley and Chance Campbell can all play; Eley ranked 12th in the conference with 7.2 tackles per game. Keep an eye on true freshman Ruben Hyppolite II, who was recruited by Alabama, Michigan, Penn State, LSU and Florida State, among others.

Hard-hitting Nick Cross is the next in a line of NFL-caliber Terp DBs. He moved in as a freshman starter and registered 45 tackles, five pass breakups and two interceptions. Antwaine Richardson is back at the other safety spot after a torn ACL last preseason. Corner Deonte Banks looks promising, and juco transfer Jakorian Bennett is at the other corner. The secondary could be a strength if Maryland can find more pass rush (next to last in the Big Ten with 1.8 sacks per game) and do a better job controlling the line of scrimmage (4.3 yards allowed per rush)

SPECIALISTS Joseph Petrino was just 2-of-5 on his few-and-far-between field-goal attempts and 36-of-38 on PATs after a standout freshman season. The punting, with alternating freshmen Colton Spangler and Anthony Pecorella, wasn't great either, despite a lot of repetition in games. DJ Turner could be special on punt returns, and Lavonte Gater has a leg up on the kick return job.

FINAL ANALYSIS Maryland was last in the Big Ten in time of possession, and that won't work until this defense gets better. There are some more bodies on D, particularly budding star Cross. The secondary is talented if they don't have to cover all day like last year. There's a lot on Jackson at QB in terms of possessing the ball and making better decisions. Locksley has more of the players he needs, but not enough. Yet.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (5)

WR	6	Jeshaun Jones (So.)		Rakim Jarrett (Fr.)
WR	1	DJ Turner (Sr.)	**21**	**Darryl Jones (Jr.)**
WR	**7**	**Dontay Demus Jr. (Jr.)**	15	Brian Cobbs (Jr.)
LT	**71**	**Jaelyn Duncan (So.)**	57	TJ Bradley (Sr.)
LG	65	Johari Branch (Jr.)	55	Austin Fontaine (So.)
C	73	Johnny Jordan (Sr.)	55	Austin Fontaine (So.)
RG	55	Austin Fontaine (So.)	52	Evan Gregory (So.)
RT	**72**	**Marcus Minor (Jr.)**	54	Spencer Anderson (So.)
TE	9	Chigoziem Okonkwo (Jr.)	86	Malik Jackson (Fr.)
QB	**17**	**Josh Jackson (Sr.)**	12	Lance LeGendre (Fr.)
RB		Peny Boone (Fr.)	4	Isaiah Jacobs (Fr.)

DEFENSE (5)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE		Mosiah Nasili-Kite (Jr.)	95	Lawtez Rogers (Jr.)
NT	**52**	**Olu Oluwatimi (Sr.)**	89	Anthony Booker Jr. (Fr.)
DT	97	Sam Okuayinonu (Sr.)		Ami Finau (Jr.)
JACK	30	Durell Nchami (So.)	10	Tyler Baylor (So.)
OLB	**16**	**Ayinde Eley (Jr.)**	23	Fa'Najae Gotay (So.)
MLB	**5**	**Shaq Smith (Sr.)**	44	Chance Campbell (Jr.)
OLB	36	Cortez Andrews (So.)	11	Ruben Hyppolite II (Fr.)
CB	**33**	**Deonte Banks (So.)**	12	Vincent Flythe (So.)
CB	2	Jakorian Bennett (Jr.)	37	Lavonte Gater (So.)
SS	20	Antwaine Richardson (Sr.)	**18**	**Jordan Mosley (Jr.)**
FS	3	Nick Cross (So.)	24	Kenny Bennett (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	27	Joseph Petrino (Jr.)	**KR**	37	Lavonte Gater (So.)
P	99	Colton Spangler (So.)	**PR**	1	DJ Turner (Sr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Josh Jackson	**207**	**98**	**1,274**	**12**	**6**
Tyrrell Pigrome	118	69	719	3	6
Tyler DeSue	**14**	**4**	**88**	**1**	**0**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Javon Leake	102	736	7.2	8
Anthony McFarland Jr.	114	614	5.4	8
Tayon Fleet-Davis	**63**	**265**	**4.1**	**2**
Jake Funk	**17**	**173**	**10.2**	**2**
Tyrrell Pigrome	45	153	3.4	2

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Dontay Demus Jr.	**41**	**625**	**15.2**	**6**
Chigoziem Okonkwo	**19**	**201**	**10.6**	**2**
Anthony McFarland Jr.	17	126	7.4	1
Brian Cobbs	**16**	**243**	**15.2**	**0**
Tayon Fleet-Davis	**15**	**181**	**12.1**	**2**

KICKING: **Joseph Petrino, 2-5 FGs, 42 pts.**
TACKLES: Antoine Brooks Jr., 87; **Ayinde Eley, 79**
SACKS: Keandre Jones, 7.0
INTERCEPTIONS: **Nick Cross, 2**; Marcus Lewis, 2

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE TERRAPINS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP MARYLAND

"You got the sense they were willing to go out there and take their lumps last year, especially early. They tried a lot of stuff out, it was obviously a rebuild mode, and they wanted to push culture and not chase immediate results. ... They really want to play their guys, the young guys, so they took it on the chin last year. When you see a staff do that these days, it means they've got long-term support. ... Offensively, we saw a lot of Alabama's stuff in there. Quarterback run game, RPOs. They were very different to scout on offense last year, maybe more than anyone in the league. ... Right now I wouldn't freak out about the number of guys going into the portal. The names we've seen in the portal are the previous staff's guys. It might be an internal push, too, trying to change the culture rapidly. I do think you pay a price for that; obviously it's going to hurt their depth. ... Signing the (Rakim) Jarrett kid was huge for them, you can play that up big. The downside is that was probably the best recruiting class in that area in a decade and most of them left for other schools. ... It's going to take a while there. They run an attractive offense, and they're a better recruiting staff because they have SEC ties. They're still a season away from needing to prove it on the field, especially as young as they are."

MICHIGAN Wolverines

National Forecast: **15** · Big Ten East Prediction: **3** · Projected Record: **9-3, 6-3**

Kwity Paye

Tim Clark

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Jim Harbaugh
Record at School: 47-18 (5 years)
Career Record: 105-45 (12 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Josh Gattis
Defensive Coordinator: Don Brown
Location: Ann Arbor, MI
Stadium: Michigan Stadium (107,601)

KEY WOLVERINES

KWITY PAYE, DE Paye is looking to pick up where he left off after a breakout campaign that saw him record 12.5 tackles for a loss.

AMBRY THOMAS, DB Thomas is the elder statesman of the defensive back group. He finished 2019 with three interceptions.

JALEN MAYFIELD, OL The only returning starter on the O-line, Mayfield started in all 13 games at right tackle as a sophomore.

KEY LOSSES

BEN BREDESON, OL A leader on and off the field; the Wolverines will miss the presence of the four-year starter on the offensive line.

LAVERT HILL, DB A stalwart since he was a true freshman, Hill leaves the U-M program with a big hole to fill at one of the cornerback spots.

SHEA PATTERSON, QB U-M will have to go back to square one at the quarterback position after the departure of the two-year starter.

RISING STAR

Linebacker **CAMERON MCGRONE** made the most of his starting opportunity and never relinquished his role as one of the Wolverines' most dependable linebackers. He finished with 65 total tackles, nine tackles for a loss and 3.5 sacks. Those numbers are expected to increase.

Michigan is entering the 2020 season with a fresh start at key positions on offense and returning youth on defense. With Shea Patterson and multiple members of the offense departing the program, the opportunity exists for offensive coordinator Josh Gattis to take the offense and mold it further to his liking. That, of course, starts with the quarterback competition between Dylan McCaffrey and Joe Milton. On defense, coordinator Don Brown has a lot of intriguing pieces to work with and the luxury of not worrying about a complete overhaul on his side of the ball.

OFFENSE The direction of the offense rests squarely on the quarterback position. McCaffrey and Milton, two quarterbacks who have limited on-field experience, both bring unique skill sets to the position. McCaffrey, who is an efficient runner, hasn't been able to showcase his arm talent fully as he has been mostly utilized on the ground during his appearances. For Milton, it's the opposite. Milton has been able to show off his arm talent while not being able to show whether he is capable of running quarterback keepers in Gattis' offense. No matter which direction the offense goes, expect to see both quarterbacks featured heavily.

The Wolverines will need to retool their offensive line as well. Four of five starters have departed, with only right tackle Jalen Mayfield returning. Expect to see players such as Andrew Stueber (who missed last season due to injury), Ryan Hayes, Zach Carpenter, Chuck Filiaga, Joel Honigford and others compete for starting roles in position battles that should be considered wide open heading into fall camp.

Elsewhere, the Wolverines return an exciting pair of running backs in Hassan Haskins and Zach Charbonnet, who carried the bulk of the workload last season. Christian Turner and Chris Evans, the latter of whom did not play with the program last season, will feature on the depth chart as well.

Wide receiver Nico Collins' return to the program was a major victory for the Wolverines this offseason. He will lead a young group of receivers that will include leading returning receiver Ronnie Bell, Giles Jackson and others competing for expanded roles.

DEFENSE The Wolverines welcome back a number of familiar faces on this side of the ball. The defense will be led by stalwart ends Kwity Paye, who decided to return for his final season in Ann Arbor, and Aidan Hutchinson. Carlo Kemp received a sixth year of eligibility and returns at defensive tackle. At the other tackle position, Mazi Smith and Chris Hinton will compete for snaps.

The linebacker position returns a promising member in Cameron McGrone, who took over from Josh Ross after Ross' injury and never gave up the position on the depth chart after that. Ross will likely be bumped to one of the outside linebacker roles, as Brown likes to shuffle his linebackers to maximize the unit's versatility. Michael Barrett, who has shown promise on special teams, should

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at Washington
Sept.	12	Ball State
Sept.	19	Arkansas State
Sept.	26	Wisconsin
Oct.	3	Penn State
Oct.	10	at Michigan State
Oct.	17	at Minnesota
Oct.	24	Purdue
Nov.	7	Maryland
Nov.	14	at Rutgers
Nov.	21	Indiana
Nov.	28	at Ohio State

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 9-4, 6-3 BIG TEN

Aug.	31	Middle Tennessee	W	40-21
Sept.	7	Army	W	24-21
Sept.	21	at Wisconsin	L	14-35
Sept.	28	Rutgers	W	52-0
Oct.	5	Iowa	W	10-3
Oct.	12	at Illinois	W	42-25
Oct.	19	at Penn State	L	21-28
Oct.	26	Notre Dame	W	45-14
Nov.	2	at Maryland	W	38-7
Nov.	16	Michigan State	W	44-10
Nov.	23	at Indiana	W	39-14
Nov.	30	Ohio State	L	27-56
Jan.	1	vs. Alabama #	L	16-35

#Citrus Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	B1G	NATIONAL
Scoring	31.7 ppg	6	44
Rushing	150.7 ypg	8	77
Passing	250.8 ypg	5	50
Total	401.5 ypg	7	68
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	20.7 ppg	5	25
Rushing	121.7 ypg	6	22
Passing	185.5 ypg	3	10
Total	307.2 ypg	4	11
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
0	0.00	7	61

2020 RECRUITS

1. A.J. Henning, WR, Frankfort, IL
2. Braiden McGregor, DE, Port Huron, MI
3. Blake Corum, RB, Baltimore, MD
4. Kalel Mullings, LB, Milton, MA
5. Andre Seldon, CB, Belleville, MI
6. Jordan Morant, S, Oradell, NJ
7. Darion Green-Warren, CB, Harbor City, CA
8. Makari Paige, S, West Bloomfield, MI
9. R.J. Moten, S, Delran, NJ
10. Zak Zinter, OG, Cambridge, MA
11. Jaylen Harrell, DE, Tampa, FL
12. Osman Savage, LB, Baltimore, MD
13. Jeffrey Persi, OT, San Juan Capistrano, CA
14. Roman Wilson, WR, Honolulu, HI
15. Nikhai Hill-Green, LB, Baltimore, MD
16. Matthew Hibner, TE, Burke, VA
17. Reece Atteberry, C, Aurora, CO
18. William Mohan, ATH, Brooklyn, NY
19. Cornell Wheeler, LB, West Bloomfield, MI
20. Aaron Lewis, DE, Williamstown, NJ
21. Eamonn Dennis, ATH, Shrewsbury, MA
22. Kris Jenkins, DE, Olney, MD
23. Dan Villari, QB, Massapequa, NY

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	32.3	14
Defense	28.0	33
Margin	**+4.3**	**19**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	43.6%	51
Defense	36.7%	17
Margin	**+6.9%**	**19**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.8	71
Defense	4.7	10
Margin	**+1.1**	**21**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.9	34
Defense	5.0	115
Margin	**-0.1**	**78**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-6.3	112
Actual	0	61
Margin	**+6.3**	**17**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

73.53%

Opponents crossed the Wolverines' 20-yard line 34 times last season and scored 25 touchdowns. The 73.53 percent touchdown rate was the worst in the Big Ten and ranked 122nd nationally.

6.15%

The Wolverines were among the nation's best at limiting big plays. Michigan allowed only 37 of 501 rushing attempts to gain 10 yards or more, and only 15 of 345 pass attempts to gain over 30 yards, a 6.15 percent rate of explosive plays allowed that led the Big Ten and ranked No. 3 in the country.

1.85

Few teams put the ball on the ground as much as Michigan last season. The Wolverines fumbled an average of 1.85 times per game in 2019, which tied for 125th nationally and tied for the second-worst mark in the Big Ten.

be considered the favorite at the VIPER position — a hybrid linebacker-safety-pass rusher — to replace mainstay Khaleke Hudson.

Elsewhere, the Wolverines will see a new crop of cornerbacks competing for playing time. Ambry Thomas returns after a solid 2019 campaign. Players like Vincent Gray, DJ Turner, Gemon Green and others will be locked in a fierce competition for the other cornerback spots. The safety position returns a talented duo in Brad Hawkins and Daxton Hill. A true freshman last year, Hill should take another big step this season.

SPECIALISTS Special teams for the Wolverines won't change much from a season ago; the only difference is that Jay Harbaugh will take over special teams duties full time after Chris Partridge departed the program during the offseason. Harbaugh appears set to take a two-man kicking rotation into the 2020 season after Jake Moody and Quinn Nordin both had their fair share of kicks last season. It doesn't appear that the Wolverines are set on one kicker over the other. Will Hart is the returning punter.

The Wolverines will have a new full-time punt returner after Donovan Peoples-Jones' departure. A player like Jackson, who returned kickoffs for the Wolverines last season, makes sense as someone who could fill that role and not miss a beat. Ambry Thomas and Jackson will return kicks.

FINAL ANALYSIS It's clear that the Wolverines will be going through some changes on offense. In Year Two of Gattis' offense, it's crucial that the Wolverines settle on the right quarterback. While no clear favorite is apparent right now, both have the talent to take the position and make it their own. It's up to the coaching staff to make the right call, as very little can be discerned from existing game film and spring practice was wiped out. Of course, it goes without saying that the quarterback needs to be protected. Offensive line coach Ed Warinner has done a good job building talented depth, and the O-line should be a secondary worry for fans.

On defense, Brown has a lot of pieces to work with, as many familiar faces return. Don't expect wholesale changes on defense this season, as many of the returners understand the defensive concepts and can be shuffled around as needed.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (4)

WR	**4**	**Nico Collins (Sr.)**	8	Ronnie Bell (Jr.)
WR	**8**	**Ronnie Bell (Jr.)**	6	Cornelius Johnson (So.)
WR	15	Giles Jackson (So.)	19	Mike Sainristil (So.)
LT	76	Ryan Hayes (Jr.)	71	Andrew Stueber (Jr.)
LG	52	Karsen Barnhart (So.)	55	Nolan Rumler (So.)
C	58	Zach Carpenter (So.)	68	Andrew Vastardis (Sr.)
RG	59	Joel Honigford (Sr.)	66	Chuck Filiaga (Sr.)
RT	**73**	**Jalen Mayfield (Jr.)**	71	Andrew Stueber (Jr.)
TE	**82**	**Nick Eubanks (Sr.)**	83	Erick All (So.)
QB	10	Dylan McCaffrey (Sr.)	5	Joe Milton (Jr.)
RB	25	Hassan Haskins (Jr.)	24	Zach Charbonnet (So.)

DEFENSE (6)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**97**	**Aidan Hutchinson (Jr.)**	18	Luiji Vilain (Sr.)
DT	**2**	**Carlo Kemp (Sr.)**	58	Mazi Smith (So.)
DT	15	Christopher Hinton (So.)	95	Donovan Jeter (Sr.)
DE	**19**	**Kwity Paye (Sr.)**	18	Luiji Vilain (Sr.)
LB	**44**	**Cameron McGrone (Jr.)**	10	Anthony Solomon (So.)
LB	12	Josh Ross (Sr.)		Kalel Mullings (Fr.)
VIP	23	Michael Barrett (Jr.)		William Mohan (Fr.)
CB	**1**	**Ambry Thomas (Sr.)**	5	DJ Turner (So.)
CB	31	Vincent Gray (Jr.)	3	Jalen Perry (So.)
SS	20	**Brad Hawkins (Sr.)**	17	Sammy Faustin (Jr.)
FS	30	Daxton Hill (So.)		R.J. Moten (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	2	Jake Moody (Jr.)	**KR**	1	Ambry Thomas (Sr.)
P	17	Will Hart (Sr.)	**PR**	15	Giles Jackson (So.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Shea Patterson	381	214	3,061	23	8
Dylan McCaffrey	**20**	**10**	**116**	**1**	**0**
Joe Milton	**7**	**3**	**59**	**1**	**1**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Zach Charbonnet	**149**	**726**	**4.9**	**11**
Hassan Haskins	**121**	**622**	**5.1**	**4**
Tru Wilson	44	221	5.0	1
Christian Turner	**44**	**171**	**3.9**	**1**
Giles Jackson	**10**	**69**	**6.9**	**1**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Ronnie Bell	**48**	**758**	**15.8**	**1**
Nico Collins	**37**	**729**	**19.7**	**7**
Donovan Peoples-Jones	34	438	12.9	6
Tarik Black	25	323	12.9	1
Nick Eubanks	25	243	9.7	4

KICKING: **Quinn Nordy, 10-13 FGs, 58 pts.**
TACKLES: Khaleke Hudson, 101; Jordan Glasgow, 89
SACKS: Josh Uche, 7.5
INTERCEPTIONS: **Ambry Thomas, 3**; Lavert Hill, 3

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE WOLVERINES

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP MICHIGAN

"It's crazy to think they're judged on Ohio State, because they've done a really fantastic job with the program and developing guys and recruiting, but it is what it is. ... Defensively you know what you're getting, and it's hell. They're going to have a bunch of team speed on that side, they're going to bring a lot of pressures from strange places and play man. It's a high-pressure defense built on getting athletes to the quarterback as fast as possible. That's great when it works, and it does, but once in a while it burns them. That's why you see them shut teams down for a month in a row and then give up 40. When you have that much NFL talent you can take risks. ... The offense will almost certainly have a program-developed quarterback for the first time. They're really good at running back, they're really good on the line. The question on offense is how far Josh Gattis goes with his system. Last year you saw Shea (Patterson) in uncomfortable situations. You got the feeling they didn't know who they wanted to be with that system, or there was a disconnect somewhere. ... When you look across the position groups at the NFL talent, when you look at their development and their schemes, this is as complete a program as you would want. They're just falling short against their rival."

MICHIGAN STATE Spartans

National Forecast: **50** · Big Ten East Prediction: **5** · Projected Record: **6-6, 4-5 Big Ten**

Antjuan Simmons

Mel Tucker isn't inheriting a broken program from Mark Dantonio, the winningest coach in school history. But it's a program in need of a burst of energy, which is something Michigan State officials believed Tucker could provide when they enticed him to leave Colorado after one season with a contract that will pay him $5.5 million annually for six years.

Tucker, 48, has coached for national championship teams under Jim Tressel at Ohio State and Nick Saban at Alabama, and he nearly coordinated the defense to another one under Kirby Smart at Georgia. The former Michigan State graduate assistant under Saban is bringing SEC-style aggressiveness to the recruiting trail but doesn't yet have a roster capable of contending in the Big Ten East.

OFFENSE It's unclear who will replace Brian Lewerke under center. Junior Rocky Lombardi had mixed results as a spot starter in 2018 when Lewerke was injured. Last year, in mop-up time, Lombardi struggled. Sophomore Theo Day has size, arm strength and decent athleticism. Swashbuckling redshirt freshman Payton Thorne was a rising threat to win the job in the spring, if practice had taken place.

Ten returning offensive linemen have started at least one game, due to widespread injuries in 2018 and '19. Several of them have played functional football at some point in their careers. Senior center Matt Allen and senior left tackle AJ Arcuri are keepers. When healthy, guard/tackle Kevin Jarvis is a standout. He has recovered from last year's knee injury.

New offensive line coach Chris Kapilovic had a strong run at North Carolina under Larry Fedora and should be able to find a capable mix.

New offensive coordinator Jay Johnson demonstrated the beginnings of balance during short stints at Minnesota and Colorado. Now he'll dig in at Michigan State with decent potential at running back and wide receiver.

Sophomore Elijah Collins rushed for 988 yards and 4.5 per attempt last year. He offers a good, not great, mix of acceleration, vision, agility and power.

Michigan State's top three pass catchers are gone, but talent is in place. Jalen Nailor had 15 catches in four games last year despite injuries. He has been explosive when healthy. Tre Mosley emerged with 21 catches last year as a true freshman, and he can snare it in a crowd. Transfer Jayden Reed was a Freshman All-American at Western Michigan in 2018 with 56 catches.

Slippery tight end Matt Dotson had 16 catches in eight games last year before injuries sidelined him. His blocking remains a question mark.

DEFENSE The Spartans posted national rankings of No. 18, 7 and 10, respectively, in total defense in the past three years under coordinator Mike Tressel. Tressel is back, as safeties coach. Scottie Hazelton arrives as Tucker's new defensive coordinator from Kansas State.

Hazelton likes the tradition, toughness and habits of

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Mel Tucker
Record at School: First season
Career Record: 5-7 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Jay Johnson
Defensive Coordinator: Scottie Hazelton
Location: East Lansing, MI
Stadium: Spartan Stadium (75,005)

KEY SPARTANS

ANTJUAN SIMMONS, LB Big hitter who can drop and cover, rush the passer or stuff the run.

ELIJAH COLLINS, RB The Big Ten's leading returning rusher broke the 100-yard mark three times last year. His 988 yards were second most by a freshman in school history.

KEVIN JARVIS, OL Earned honorable mention All-Big Ten in 2017 but suffered injuries in '18 and '19. He's back and primed.

KEY LOSSES

BRIAN LEWERKE, QB Was 22–16 as a three-year starter, amassing a school-record 9,548 yards of total offense.

KENNY WILLEKES, DE Was two-time first-team All-Big Ten and is the all-time school leader with 51 tackles for a loss.

JOSIAH SCOTT, CB Was second-team All-Big Ten in 2019 and third-team as a freshman in '17. The fastest player on the team.

RISING STAR

JAYDEN REED transferred from Western Michigan after posting four 100-yard receiving games for the Broncos in 2018 as a FWAA Freshman All-American. He impressed teammates and coaches while on the scout team last year. Teammates predict immediate stardom for him.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Northwestern
Sept.	12	at BYU
Sept.	19	Toledo
Sept.	26	Miami
Oct.	3	at Iowa
Oct.	10	Michigan
Oct.	17	Ohio State
Oct.	24	at Indiana
Oct.	31	Minnesota
Nov.	14	at Penn State
Nov.	21	Rutgers
Nov.	28	at Maryland

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 7-6, 4-5 BIG TEN

Aug.	30	Tulsa	W	28-7
Sept.	7	Western Michigan	W	51-17
Sept.	14	Arizona State	L	7-10
Sept.	21	at Northwestern	W	31-10
Sept.	28	Indiana	W	40-31
Oct.	5	at Ohio State	L	10-34
Oct.	12	at Wisconsin	L	0-38
Oct.	26	Penn State	L	7-28
Nov.	9	Illinois	L	34-37
Nov.	16	at Michigan	L	10-44
Nov.	23	at Rutgers	W	27-0
Nov.	30	Maryland	W	19-16
Dec.	27	vs. Wake Forest #	W	27-21

#Pinstripe Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	B1G	NATIONAL
Scoring	22.4 ppg	12	105
Rushing	127.2 ypg	13	113
Passing	244.8 ypg	6	55
Total	371.9 ypg	9	95
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	22.5 ppg	6	37
Rushing	113.8 ypg	5	16
Passing	207.8 ypg	8	37
Total	321.6 ypg	6	18
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
-2	-0.15	10	78

2020 RECRUITS

1. Ricky White, WR, Marietta, GA
2. Darius Snow, LB, Carrollton, TX
3. Dallas Fincher, OG, Grand Rapids, MI
4. Terry Lockett Jr., WR, Minneapolis, MN
5. Jordon Simmons, RB, Powder Springs, GA
6. Ian Stewart, WR, Rockwood, MI
7. Devin Hightower, LB, Akron, OH
8. Angelo Grose, CB, Mansfield, OH
9. Tommy Guajardo, TE, Dearborn, MI
10. Simeon Barrow, DE, Grovetown, GA
11. Kyle King, DE, New Palestine, IN
12. Cal Haladay, LB, Catawissa, PA
13. Avery Dunn, DE, Cleveland, OH
14. Montorie Foster, WR, Lakewood, OH
15. Chris Mayfield, DE, Hilliard, OH
16. Noah Kim, QB, Chantilly, VA
17. Jeff Pietrowski, DE, Lakewood, OH
18. Jasiyah Robinson, DE, Groveport, OH
19. Cole DeMarzo, LB, Hilton Head Island, SC
20. Justin Stevens, OT, Mississauga, ON
21. Jack Olsen, K, Wheaton, IL
22. Donovan Eaglin, RB, Manvel, TX

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Matthew Mitchell/Michigan State Athletics

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	29.8	64
Defense	29.7	78
Margin	**+0.1**	**70**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	40.6%	85
Defense	36.8%	18
Margin	**+3.8%**	**48**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.2	105
Defense	5.0	23
Margin	**+0.2**	**66**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	3.5	126
Defense	4.5	64
Margin	**-1.0**	**119**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	0.0	68
Actual	-2	78
Margin	**-2.0**	**87**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

2.59%

The Spartans attempted 464 passes in 2019, but only 12 gained 30 yards or more — a rate of 2.59 percent that was second worst in the Big Ten and ranked No. 125 nationally.

1.96

Line yards refers to the amount of rushing yardage credited to a runner's offensive line. Defensively, Michigan State allowed only 1.96 line yards per carry in 2019 — second best in the country behind only San Diego State (1.90).

-73

Michigan State held Tulsa to minus-73 rushing yards in its 28–7 victory over the Golden Hurricane in the 2019 season opener. Even taking sacks out of the equation, the Spartans held Tulsa to minus-34 rushing yards, which was also the best mark of the season nationwide.

the players he is inheriting, but only three regular starters return.

Jacub Panasiuk is a well-rounded battler at defensive end. Naquan Jones and Jacob Slade are ready to play good football as new starters at defensive tackle.

Antjuan Simmons is a smart leader and one of the most versatile linebackers in the Big Ten. He can play the Mike or the slot, or anywhere necessary.

Inside 'backer Noah Harvey was solid when pressed into starting duty last year, amassing 14 stops in the bowl game.

Michigan State's secondary wasn't up to the Dantonio standard last year. Harlon Barnett, Dantonio's long-time defensive backs coach, is back coaching cornerbacks for Tucker after a short, unsuccessful gig as defensive coordinator at Florida State. The talent pool in the secondary isn't as strong as it was when Barnett built a great group from 2011-15, but he's the man to retool it.

Xavier Henderson is ready to contend for all-conference honors at safety. Shakur Brown started the final five games of last season at cornerback, and Tre Person has experience at safety, but both need to show more consistency.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Matt Coghlin was first-team All-Big Ten in 2018 and honorable mention last year after struggling at times. He has hit three-game winners in his career. Junior walk-on punter Tyler Hunt averaged 40.1 yards per attempt as an injury replacement in 2018. He will compete with UTEP grad transfer Mitchell Crawford to replace the graduated Jake Hartbarger. Nailor and Reed are options in the return game, which needs improvement.

FINAL ANALYSIS With the task of installing a new defense and offense amid an uncertain quarterback situation, under a new head coach, the spring shutdown stalled Tucker's transition plan and likely hurt Michigan State more than any team in the Big Ten. Add one of the hardest schedules in the country, with two challenging non-conference tilts against Miami and at BYU, and the quest to achieve a 13th bowl bid in 14 years for this program will be a difficult one. A repeat of last year's 7–6 season with a bowl win would be a constructive first step for Tucker.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)				
WR	17	Tre Mosley (So.)	2	Julian Barnett (So.)
WR	8	Jalen Nailor (So.)	4	C.J. Hayes (Jr.)
WR	5	Jayden Reed (So.)	13	Laress Nelson (Sr.)
LT	76	AJ Arcuri (Sr.)	**62**	**Luke Campbell (Sr.)**
LG	67	J.D. Duplain (So.)	74	Devontae Dobbs (Fr.)
C	**64**	**Matt Allen (Sr.)**	59	Nick Samac (So.)
RG	**75**	**Kevin Jarvis (Jr.)**	**56**	**Matt Carrick (Jr.)**
RT	**55**	**Jordan Reid (Sr.)**	79	Mustafa Khaleefah (Jr.)
TE	89	Matt Dotson (Sr.)	88	Trenton Gillison (So.)
QB	10	Payton Thorne (Fr.)	12	Rocky Lombardi (Jr.)
RB	**24**	**Elijah Collins (So.)**	9	Anthony Williams Jr. (So.)

DEFENSE (3)				Returning Starters in Bold
DE	**96**	**Jacub Panasiuk (Sr.)**	91	Jack Camper (Jr.)
DT	93	Naquan Jones (Sr.)	89	Jalen Hunt (Fr.)
DT	64	Jacob Slade (So.)	94	Dashaun Mallory (So.)
DE	86	Drew Beesley (Sr.)	5	Michael Fletcher (Fr.)
OLB	**34**	**Antjuan Simmons (Sr.)**	33	Jeslord Boateng (So.)
MLB	45	Noah Harvey (Jr.)	38	Luke Fulton (Fr.)
OLB	21	Chase Kline (So.)	13	Marcel Lewis (Fr.)
CB	29	Shakur Brown (Jr.)	14	Davion Williams (So.)
CB	18	Kalon Gervin (So.)	9	Dominique Long (Sr.)
SS	**3**	**Xavier Henderson (Jr.)**	10	Michael Dowell (So.)
FS	24	Tre Person (Sr.)	28	Tate Hallock (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	4	Matt Coghlin (Sr.)	**KR**	8	Jalen Nailor (So.)
P	97	Tyler Hunt (Jr.)	**PR**	8	Jalen Nailor (So.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Brian Lewerke	436	260	3,079	17	13
Rocky Lombardi	**21**	**7**	**74**	**0**	**2**
Darrell Stewart Jr.	1	1	17	0	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Elijah Collins	**222**	**988**	**4.5**	**5**
Brian Lewerke	111	363	3.3	3
Anthony Williams Jr.	**38**	**118**	**3.1**	**1**
Connor Heyward	**24**	**79**	**3.3**	**0**
Brandon Wright	**18**	**48**	**2.7**	**0**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Cody White	66	922	14.0	6
Darrell Stewart Jr.	49	697	14.2	4
Matt Seybert	26	284	10.9	3
Tre Mosley	**21**	**216**	**10.3**	**1**
Matt Dotson	**16**	**151**	**9.4**	**1**

KICKING: **Matt Coghlin, 22-32 FGs, 97 pts.**

TACKLES: **Antjuan Simmons, 90; Xavier Henderson, 83**

SACKS: Kenny Willekes, 16.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Josiah Scott, 3

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE SPARTANS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP MICHIGAN STATE

"This is the big unknown in the league. There was a lot of talk about Mark (Dantonio) stepping down after the off-field stuff started to build. I think a lot of us watched the hiring process from the outside, and it showed you this program is desperate, and there's probably more going on there with scandals and the NCAA than we know. ... This is the Big Ten team you would think is most affected by coronavirus. They haven't had any time to install on either side of the ball. Just looking at Colorado from a distance, the base concepts on offense are going to be very different for the kids. ... The offense was a total wreck; they resisted evolving with the times for so long that it was too late by the time they did it. They're going to be Saban-type on defense, and they've got a better chance at installing more of the defense than the offense. ... Because this is an uncharted experience, you would think they're going to be really, really plain on offense to start the year. Go vanilla, try to take it slow and play defense. ... The expectations are the big question here. The amount of money they spent on Mel (Tucker) says they expect to be a Rose Bowl team in the future, but it's just such a different Big Ten than even five or six years ago when they were clicking. They didn't cut that big a check to win seven or eight a year."

OHIO STATE Buckeyes

National Forecast: **3** · Big Ten East Prediction: **1** · Projected Record: **13-0, 9-0 Big Ten**

Justin Fields

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Ryan Day
Record at School: 16-1 (1+ years)
Career Record: 16-1 (1+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Kevin Wilson
Defensive Coordinators: Kerry Coombs, Greg Mattison
Location: Columbus, OH
Stadium: Ohio Stadium (102,780)

KEY BUCKEYES

JUSTIN FIELDS, QB He'll look to improve on a completion percentage of 67.2 in hopes of carrying the Buckeyes to another Big Ten title.

SHAUN WADE, CB The onus is on him to lead the defensive backfield and become a much-needed star on defense.

WYATT DAVIS, OG While the line needs to develop, it has an anchor in Davis, a natural road-grader who plays with impressive ferocity.

KEY LOSSES

CHASE YOUNG, DE The most talented pass rusher in college football is gone, leaving the Buckeyes without a game-wrecking defender.

J.K. DOBBINS, RB OSU's first single-season 2,000-yard rusher is off to the NFL, and it will take a committee to replace him.

JEFF OKUDAH, CB OSU has produced an assembly line at CB, but finding someone with Okudah's size, skill and tenacity is no easy feat.

RISING STAR

One of the nation's top prep prospects, wide receiver **JULIAN FLEMING** has size (6'2", 200), soft hands and fluid route-running ability. He arrives as the Buckeyes try to adjust to life without all-time leading receiver K.J. Hill, and he will get an early opportunity to shine.

Losing a commanding lead and falling to Clemson in a dramatic national CFP semifinal is going to sting for a while, but a 13–1 season — and an undefeated blitz through the Big Ten — served notice that Ryan Day was more than ready to take the reins from the retired Urban Meyer last year. In Day's first full season at the helm, the Buckeyes racked up 46.9 points and 529.9 yards per game while fielding one of the nation's stingiest defenses. Special teams were solid as well.

With Heisman Trophy candidate Justin Fields back at quarterback, optimism remains high, but he'll no longer be able to turn around and hand the ball off to J.K. Dobbins or watch Chase Young singlehandedly destroy opposing game plans.

These Buckeyes may have to win a shootout or two — at least until consistency develops on defense — and will look to get career-best seasons out of a lot of upperclassmen who have waited their turn. We should have a good idea about Ohio State by midseason, especially after trips to Michigan State and Penn State in consecutive weeks.

OFFENSE Day likes Fields' development and improved vision, and he's convinced the multi-threat QB can do even more this season. That sentiment also could be based on need as the Buckeyes are charged with finding a new running game. Master Teague III, who had 789 yards and 5.8 per carry last season, was the likely replacement for Dobbins until he suffered a setback in the spring, reportedly a torn Achilles. Marcus Crowley also dealt with an offseason injury, forcing the coaches to take a deeper look at youngster Steele Chambers and senior Demario McCall. The top option could end up being graduate transfer Trey Sermon, who amassed more than 2,000 rushing yards and 25 scores at Oklahoma.

OSU averaged 266.8 rushing yards per game last season, which provided the necessary balance in Day's system and allowed Fields to spread the ball to a multitude of receivers. Many of those pass catchers are gone, but Chris Olave, fresh off team-leading stats of 12 touchdown catches and 17.3 yards per reception, is ready for stardom. He'll be joined by Garrett Wilson and a bevy of premier athletes, including some talented freshmen and slot receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba.

The offense also can employ several quality tight ends, a group that includes red zone option Jeremy Ruckert.

The O-line has the potential to be dominant with juniors Wyatt Davis and Josh Myers entrenched in key roles at guard and center, respectively, while senior Thayer Munford will man one of the tackle positions. The coaches are hoping either sophomore Nicholas Petit-Frere or freshman Paris Johnson Jr. lives up to his five-star status at the other OT spot.

DEFENSE The secondary is a major question mark with All-American Jeff Okudah, fellow corner Damon Arnette and reliable safety Jordan Fuller all departed. Also, the program had no choice but to cut ties with safeties Jahsen Wint and Amir Riep after they were indict-

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Bowling Green
Sept.	12	at Oregon
Sept.	19	Buffalo
Sept.	26	Rutgers
Oct.	10	Iowa
Oct.	17	at Michigan State
Oct.	24	at Penn State
Oct.	31	Nebraska
Nov.	7	Indiana
Nov.	14	at Maryland
Nov.	21	at Illinois
Nov.	28	Michigan

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 13-1, 9-0 BIG TEN

Aug.	31	Florida Atlantic	W	45-21
Sept.	7	Cincinnati	W	42-0
Sept.	14	at Indiana	W	51-10
Sept.	21	Miami (Ohio)	W	76-5
Sept.	28	at Nebraska	W	48-7
Oct.	5	Michigan State	W	34-10
Oct.	18	at Northwestern	W	52-3
Oct.	26	Wisconsin	W	38-7
Nov.	9	Maryland	W	73-14
Nov.	16	at Rutgers	W	56-21
Nov.	23	Penn State	W	28-17
Nov.	30	at Michigan	W	56-27
Dec.	7	vs. Wisconsin #	W	34-21
Dec.	28	vs. Clemson %	L	23-29

#Indianapolis %Fiesta Bowl: CFB Playoff Semifinal

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	B1G	NATIONAL
Scoring	46.9 ppg	1	3
Rushing	266.8 ypg	1	5
Passing	263.1 ypg	3	36
Total	529.9 ypg	1	4
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	13.7 ppg	1	4
Rushing	103.7 ypg	3	9
Passing	156.0 ypg	1	1
Total	259.7 ypg	1	1
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
+9	+0.64	3	17

2020 RECRUITS

1. Julian Fleming, WR, Catawissa, PA
2. Paris Johnson Jr., OT, Cincinnati, OH
3. Jaxon Smith-Njigba, WR, Rockwall, TX
4. C.J. Stroud, QB, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
5. Gee Scott Jr., WR, Sammamish, WA
6. Cody Simon, LB, Jersey City, NJ
7. Mookie Cooper, WR, Maryland Heights, MO
8. Luke Wypler, C, Montvale, NJ
9. Darrion Henry-Young, DT, Cincinnati, OH
10. Jacolbe Cowan, DT, Charlotte, NC
11. Kourt Williams, LB, Bellflower, CA
12. Lathan Ransom, S, Tucson, AZ
13. Ryan Watts, S, Little Elm, TX
14. Cameron Martinez, ATH, Muskegon, MI
15. Jack Miller III, QB, Scottsdale, AZ
16. Mitchell Melton, LB, Olney, MD
17. Lejond Cavazos, CB, Seguin, TX
18. Joe Royer, TE, Cincinnati, OH
19. Grant Toutant, OT, Warren, MI
20. Josh Fryar, OG, Beech Grove, IN
21. Miyan Williams, RB, Cincinnati, OH
22. Ty Hamilton, DE, Pickerington, OH
23. Jakob James, OG, Cincinnati, OH
24. Trey Leroux, OT, Norwalk, OH
25. Jake Seibert, K, Cincinnati, OH

Recruits ranked according to the 247SportsComposite

Bruce Schwartzman

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	32.9	5
Defense	26.2	8
Margin	**+6.7**	**5**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	51.0%	7
Defense	32.0%	1
Margin	**+19.0%**	**2**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.9	7
Defense	4.1	1
Margin	**+2.8**	**3**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	5.3	10
Defense	3.7	9
Margin	**+1.6**	**3**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	8.8	12
Actual	9	14
Margin	**+0.2**	**62**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

82.5%

The Ohio State defense held its opponents to either a punt, turnover or turnover on downs on 151 of 183 drives in 2019. The 82.5 percent stop rate the Buckeyes produced was the best in the country.

23.95%

No FBS defense posted a higher havoc rate than Ohio State last season. The Buckeyes recorded a tackle for a loss, interception, pass breakup or forced a fumble on 23.95 percent of snaps — more than 2.0 percentage points better than No. 2 Wisconsin (21.93 percent).

12.08%

The Buckeyes led the country with 54 sacks last season, which would be impressive in itself. However, Ohio State also led the nation with a 12.08 percent sack rate, having brought down the opposing quarterback 54 times on 447 dropbacks.

ed on rape and kidnapping charges in February. Day is hoping the return of assistant coach Kerry Coombs, the team's new defensive coordinator, will return the magic to the back end of the defense. Coombs developed the likes of Bradley Roby, Marshon Lattimore and Denzel Ward in his previous stint at the school. Another plus is the return of corner Shaun Wade, who apparently didn't want to end his college career by being tossed out of the Fiesta Bowl for a targeting call on Clemson QB Trevor Lawrence.

The defensive backfield is going to need to show it can stay with receivers, especially if the front seven isn't able to get after the quarterback like it did in 2019. Not only did Young log 21.0 tackles for a loss, but linebacker Malik Harrison also added 16.5 TFLs in his final year in scarlet and gray. Harrison led OSU in total stops (75) last year and came through in big games.

Ideally, senior Baron Browning follows in those footsteps and thrives at Harrison's OLB spot, allowing Tuf Borland, a more natural MLB, to man the inside. Yet another senior, a beefed-up Pete Werner, should start at the other OLB spot in 4-3 looks.

Up front, co-captain Jonathon Cooper returns for a fifth year while fellow ends Zach Harrison and Tyreke Smith look ready to make an impact.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Blake Haubeil and punter Drue Chrisman have eyes on highly productive senior seasons. Day doesn't like to settle for field goals, but Haubeil is a good fallback (13-of-15 last year) and is steady on kickoffs. Meanwhile, Chrisman averaged 44.3 yards per boot last season with nearly a third of his kicks traveling 50 yards or more. Wilson and McCall bring potential excitement to the return game.

FINAL ANALYSIS Even though this is a team with enough ability to contend and with several upperclassmen occupying key spots, a lot will have to fall into place for OSU to return to the College Football Playoff. With Day under the headset, Fields at the controls and young blazers at the wideout positions, this offense could be electric again. Clearly, Fields will have every chance to confirm why he is a Heisman frontrunner. But are the losses on defense going to prove to be too much to overcome?

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**2**	**Chris Olave (Jr.)**	80	C.J. Saunders (Sr.)
WR	5	Garrett Wilson (So.)	4	Julian Fleming (Fr.)
WR	11	Jaxon Smith-Njigba (Fr.)	3	Demario McCall (Sr.)
LT	**75**	**Thayer Munford (Sr.)**	77	Paris Johnson Jr. (Fr.)
LG	76	Harry Miller (So.)	66	Enokk Vimahi (Fr.)
C	**71**	**Josh Myers (Jr.)**	55	Matthew Jones (So.)
RG	**52**	**Wyatt Davis (Jr.)**	61	Gavin Cupp (Sr.)
RT	78	Nicholas Petit-Frere (So.)	79	Dawand Jones (So.)
TE	**89**	**Luke Farrell (Sr.)**	88	Jeremy Ruckert (Jr.)
QB	**1**	**Justin Fields (Jr.)**	12	Gunnar Hoak (Sr.)
RB	33	Master Teague III (So.)		Trey Sermon (Sr.)

DEFENSE (3)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	18	Jonathon Cooper (Sr.)	54	Tyler Friday (Jr.)
DT	92	Haskell Garrett (Sr.)	6	Taron Vincent (So.)
DT	72	Tommy Togiai (Jr.)	52	Antwuan Jackson (Sr.)
DE	9	Zach Harrison (So.)	11	Tyreke Smith (Jr.)
OLB	5	Baron Browning (Sr.)	19	Dallas Gant (Jr.)
MLB	**32**	**Tuf Borland (Sr.)**	3	Teradja Mitchell (Jr.)
OLB	**20**	**Pete Werner (Sr.)**	47	Justin Hilliard (Sr.)
CB	**24**	**Shaun Wade (Jr.)**	13	Tyreke Johnson (So.)
CB	7	Sevyn Banks (Jr.)	26	Cameron Brown (Jr.)
SS	15	Josh Proctor (Jr.)	23	Marcus Hooker (So.)
FS	21	Marcus Williamson (Sr.)	4	Lejond Cavazos (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	95	Blake Haubeil (Sr.)	**KR**	3	Demario McCall (Sr.)
P	91	Drue Chrisman (Sr.)	**PR**	5	Garrett Wilson (So.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Justin Fields	**354**	**238**	**3,273**	**41**	**3**
Chris Chugunov	43	26	286	6	0
Gunnar Hoak	**6**	**6**	**104**	**1**	**0**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
J.K. Dobbins	301	2,003	6.7	21
Master Teague III	**135**	**789**	**5.8**	**4**
Justin Fields	**137**	**484**	**3.5**	**10**
Marcus Crowley	**25**	**237**	**9.5**	**1**
Steele Chambers	**19**	**135**	**7.1**	**1**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
K.J. Hill	57	636	11.2	10
Chris Olave	**49**	**849**	**17.3**	**12**
Binjimen Victor	35	573	16.4	6
Garrett Wilson	**30**	**432**	**14.4**	**5**
Austin Mack	27	361	13.4	3

KICKING: **Blake Haubeil, 13-15 FGs, 124 pts.**
TACKLES: Malik Harrison, 75; **Pete Werner, 64**
SACKS: Chase Young, 16.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Jeff Okudah, 3

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE BUCKEYES

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP OHIO STATE

"They're a favorite to win the conference and the national title, and it's for a very good reason. They're operating at the highest level. They're dominant in every phase of construction. They recruit, develop and coach better than anyone in the conference and as good as an Alabama or Clemson. ... They simplified defensively last year. That was a big change for them, and it paid off. Very simple, single high, cover one, cover three, get a guy in the box to play the run. You can do that with elite defensive backs. They trusted them. Also, when you have a Chase Young, you get certain luxuries. They were so talented they had to make it simple. Now they're going to have to adjust. The secondary is turning over, and they're good but not great on the defensive line. One of those units is going to have to lead the defense if they want to keep the momentum going from last season. ... Offensively, Justin Fields is one of the best players in the country. They're going to get another year to tinker and find out what they can exploit with this skill. It's not even fair. ... They might be a step behind on defense, but they should be able to score points and really hurt your feelings with that offense. They're still the gold standard on recruiting; nothing has changed there. They're the prohibitive favorite to win it all. It's that or bust."

PENN STATE Nittany Lions

National Forecast: **5** · Big Ten East Prediction: **2** · Projected Record: **11-1, 8-1**

Micah Parsons

You wouldn't know it from looking at the roster, which is full of high-profile returnees like Micah Parsons, Pat Freiermuth and Sean Clifford, but Penn State has undergone some big changes. There's a new offensive coordinator and new assistants in charge of the offensive and defensive lines and wide receivers.

That's a lot of upheaval for one offseason, but as head coach James Franklin notes, it's a byproduct of his team's 42–11 record over the past four years. "People have seen the success we've had," he says, "and want to steal bits and pieces of it."

Whether they stole enough to slow the Lions' momentum is an open question. A veteran roster that returns eight starters on offense and five on defense should help smooth the transition.

OFFENSE The Nittany Lions have a new offensive coordinator in Kirk Ciarrocca, formerly of Minnesota. Ciarrocca's mandate at Penn State has been to blend his system with the one already in place, so don't expect the Lions to deviate radically from an approach that yielded 35.8 points per game last year. They've got a capable dual-threat quarterback in Clifford, who averaged 254.7 yards of total offense, fourth best in the Big Ten. They've also got an excellent stable of running backs headlined by Journey Brown. As a sophomore, Brown surpassed 100 yards in four of Penn State's last five games, including a 202-yard outburst in the Cotton Bowl vs. Memphis.

On the offensive line, new position coach Phil Trautwein has inherited five players with starting experience. Tackles Will Fries and Rasheed Walker are back, as is center Michal Menet. C.J. Thorpe and Mike Miranda shared the right guard position last year, and one of those two will likely move over to left guard to fill the Lions' only graduation loss.

The big concern is at wide receiver. Aside from returning starter Jahan Dotson, who caught 40 passes for 691 yards in his first two seasons, the Lions don't have a single wideout with more than a dozen career catches to his credit. Six of the team's scholarship receivers will have freshman eligibility, and they're not the only newcomers. There's also a new position coach, Taylor Stubblefield, the team's fourth receivers coach in as many seasons. One piece of good news: Freiermuth is back after catching 15 TD passes his first two seasons, tying the school record for tight ends.

DEFENSE The Lions have lost veteran starters at all three levels, but they appear to have good options at the six vacancies. Up front, where former South Carolina defensive line coach John Scott Jr. has taken over, Penn State returns Shaka Toney at weakside defensive end and has two solid contenders for the strongside spot in Jayson Oweh and Adisa Isaac. Antonio Shelton is back at defensive tackle, while experienced junior PJ Mustipher is set to take over the opposite spot.

The linebacker corps has lost two starters, but it returns a game-wrecker in Parsons. As a sophomore, Parsons led

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: James Franklin
Record at School: 56-23 (6 years)
Career Record: 80-38 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Kirk Ciarrocca
Defensive Coordinators: Tim Banks, Brent Pry
Location: University Park, PA
Stadium: Beaver Stadium (106,572)

KEY NITTANY LIONS

MICAH PARSONS, OLB Big Ten's Linebacker of the Year after making a team-best 109 stops, including five sacks and 14 tackles for a loss.

PAT FREIERMUTH, TE Has already tied Mike Gesicki's school record for touchdown catches by a tight end with 15.

SEAN CLIFFORD, QB Threw for 2,654 yards and rushed for 402 in his first season as Penn State's starting quarterback.

KEY LOSSES

KJ HAMLER, WR Led the Nittany Lions in receiving each of the past two years before opting to enter the NFL Draft.

YETUR GROSS-MATOS, DE Totaled 37 tackles for a loss and 19 sacks in his three-year career.

BLAKE GILLIKIN, P Started every game of his college career — 53 in all — and finished as the second-leading punter in school history with a 43.0-yard average.

RISING STAR

Outside linebacker **BRANDON SMITH** made a big first impression, sending an Idaho receiver sprawling in a lopsided 2019 season-opener. The former four-star prospect went on to finish with 14 tackles. Expect that number to climb substantially this fall.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Kent State
Sept.	12	at Virginia Tech
Sept.	19	San Jose State
Sept.	26	Northwestern
Oct.	3	at Michigan
Oct.	17	Iowa
Oct.	24	Ohio State
Oct.	31	at Indiana
Nov.	7	at Nebraska
Nov.	14	Michigan State
Nov.	21	Maryland
Nov.	28	at Rutgers

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 11-2, 7-2 BIG TEN

Aug.	31	Idaho	W	79-7
Sept.	7	Buffalo	W	45-13
Sept.	14	Pittsburgh	W	17-10
Sept.	28	at Maryland	W	59-0
Oct.	5	Purdue	W	35-7
Oct.	12	at Iowa	W	17-12
Oct.	19	Michigan	W	28-21
Oct.	26	at Michigan State	W	28-7
Nov.	9	at Minnesota	L	26-31
Nov.	16	Indiana	W	34-27
Nov.	23	at Ohio State	L	17-28
Nov.	30	Rutgers	W	27-6
Dec.	28	vs. Memphis #	W	53-39

#Cotton Bowl Classic

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	B1G	NATIONAL
Scoring	35.8 ppg	2	15
Rushing	190.6 ypg	4	36
Passing	221.3 ypg	8	76
Total	411.9 ypg	6	57
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	16.0 ppg	3	8
Rushing	95.0 ypg	1	5
Passing	251.5 ypg	13	100
Total	346.5 ypg	8	34
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
+8	+0.62	4	19

2020 RECRUITS

1. Curtis Jacobs, LB, Owings Mills, MD
2. Theo Johnson, TE, Windsor, ON
3. Enzo Jennings, S, Oak Park, MI
4. Caziah Holmes, RB, Cocoa, FL
5. Cole Brevard, DT, Carmel, IN
6. KeAndre Lambert-Smith, WR, Norfolk, VA
7. Coziah Izzard, DT, Hyattsville, MD
8. Parker Washington, WR, Richmond, TX
9. Keyvone Lee, RB, Clearwater, FL
10. Jaden Dottin, WR, Suffield, CT
11. Zuriah Fisher, DE, Aliquippa, PA
12. Jimmy Christ, OT, Sterling, VA
13. Joseph Johnson III, CB, Colonial Heights, VA
14. Olu Fashanu, OT, Washington, DC
15. Micah Bowens, QB, Las Vegas, NV
16. Golden Israel-Achumba, OG, Hyattsville, MD
17. Ji'Ayir Brown, S, Trenton, NJ*
18. Amin Vanover, DE, Montvale, NJ
19. Tyler Elsdon, LB, Ashland, PA
20. Tyler Warren, TE, Mechanicsville, VA
21. Brandon Taylor, DE, Lima, OH
22. Bryce Mostella, DE, Grand Rapids, MI
23. Malick Meiga, WR, Montreal, QC
24. Norval Black, WR, Germantown, MD*
25. Fatorma Mulbah, DT, Harrisburg, PA
26. Ibrahim Traore, OT, New York, NY
27. Nick Dawkins, OG, Allentown, PA

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

AP Photo/Barry Reeger

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	33.5	2
Defense	25.1	2
Margin	**+8.4**	**1**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	42.9%	61
Defense	36.0%	12
Margin	**+6.9%**	**20**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.1	49
Defense	4.8	16
Margin	**+1.3**	**19**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	5.1	19
Defense	3.4	4
Margin	**+1.7**	**1**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	9.6	8
Actual	8	18
Margin	**-1.6**	**82**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

15.0

No Big Ten team scored touchdowns at a quicker pace than Penn State. The Nittany Lions ran an average of 15.0 offensive plays between scores in 2019, which ranked No. 12 in the country.

15.5%

Penn State struggled to avoid sacks when it needed to most last season. On passing downs (second-and-7 or longer, or third- or fourth-down-and-5 or longer), the Nittany Lions surrendered a sack 15.5 percent of the time, which ranked last in the Big Ten and No. 127 in the country.

1.69

The Nittany Lions forced an FBS-best 1.69 fumbles per game in 2019. Penn State's 22 forced fumbles were also the most in the nation.

the Lions in tackles from his weakside spot, making 109 stops and winning All-America honors. He had a spectacular afternoon in the Cotton Bowl with 14 tackles and two forced fumbles, setting the stage for what could be a huge junior year. At middle linebacker, Ellis Brooks has seen extensive action the past two seasons, while Brandon Smith was the most highly rated prospect in the team's 2019 recruiting class and looks ready to step in at the strongside LB spot.

The secondary welcomes back cornerback Tariq Castro-Fields and free safety Lamont Wade. Both are seniors who considered leaving early for the draft. Elsewhere, Marquis Wilson will vie for the open cornerback spot after coming on strong toward the end of his true freshman season. Classmate Keaton Ellis could also be a factor, while junior Jonathan Sutherland appears likely to take over at strong safety. The Lions need dramatic improvement in the secondary after allowing 251.5 passing yards per game last season, the Big Ten's second-highest total.

SPECIALISTS Jake Pinegar and Jordan Stout are both back after combining to give Penn State one of the Big Ten's better kicking games in 2019. Pinegar was the Lions' primary field-goal kicker, while Stout handled kickoffs and long-distance field goals. Together, they hit 13-of-15 attempts. Stout might also be the Lions' punter this fall. Two other key vacancies — the punt- and kickoff-return jobs — have a cloudier outlook. It wouldn't be surprising to see a freshman or two make an impact here.

FINAL ANALYSIS If the Lions are going to take the next step, they will need to do better in the passing game — on both sides of the ball. They will need to throw and catch more consistently after finishing eighth in the Big Ten in passing offense last year, and they will need to stop opponents from gouging their secondary, as happened in their loss to Minnesota and even in a few wins.

Several young cornerbacks flashed potential last season, notably Wilson and Ellis, so the future looks bright in the secondary. But the situation on offense remains murky. Except for Dotson, the receiver position is a mystery. Are any of the freshmen ready to become reliable contributors? If so, a division title may be attainable.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**5**	**Jahan Dotson (Jr.)**	13	KeAndre Lambert-Smith (Fr.)
WR	11	Daniel George (So.)	8	John Dunmore (Fr.)
WR	81	Cam Sullivan-Brown (Jr.)	10	TJ Jones (Fr.)
LT	**53**	**Rasheed Walker (So.)**	75	Des Holmes (Jr.)
LG	**73**	**Mike Miranda (Jr.)**	72	Bryce Effner (So.)
C	**62**	**Michal Menet (Sr.)**	73	Mike Miranda (Jr.)
RG	69	C.J. Thorpe (Jr.)	55	Anthony Whigan (Jr.)
RT	**71**	**Will Fries (Sr.)**	79	Caedan Wallace (Fr.)
TE	**87**	**Pat Freiermuth (Jr.)**	82	Zack Kuntz (So.)
QB	**14**	**Sean Clifford (Jr.)**	7	Will Levis (So.)
RB	**4**	**Journey Brown (Jr.)**	21	Noah Cain (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**18**	**Shaka Toney (Sr.)**	34	Shane Simmons (Sr.)
DT	97	PJ Mustipher (Jr.)	77	Judge Culpepper (So.)
DT	**55**	**Antonio Shelton (Sr.)**	53	Fred Hansard (Jr.)
DE	28	Jayson Oweh (So.)	20	Adisa Isaac (So.)
OLB	**11**	**Micah Parsons (Jr.)**	40	Jesse Luketa (Jr.)
MLB	13	Ellis Brooks (Jr.)	40	Jesse Luketa (Jr.)
OLB	12	Brandon Smith (So.)	10	Lance Dixon (Fr.)
CB	**5**	**Tariq Castro-Fields (Sr.)**	2	Keaton Ellis (So.)
CB	8	Marquis Wilson (So.)	3	Donovan Johnson (Jr.)
SS	26	Jonathan Sutherland (Jr.)	48	C.J. Holmes (Jr.)
FS	**38**	**Lamont Wade (Sr.)**	7	Jaquan Brisker (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	92	Jake Pinegar (Jr.)	**KR**	4	Journey Brown (Jr.)
P	98	Jordan Stout (Jr.)	**PR**	5	Jahan Dotson (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Sean Clifford	319	189	2,654	23	7
Will Levis	47	27	223	2	2
Ta'Quan Roberson	1	0	0	0	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Journey Brown	129	890	6.9	12
Noah Cain	84	443	5.3	8
Sean Clifford	116	402	3.5	5
Devyn Ford	52	294	5.7	3
Ricky Slade	47	214	4.6	2

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
KJ Hamler	56	904	16.1	8
Pat Freiermuth	43	507	11.8	7
Jahan Dotson	27	488	18.1	5
Journey Brown	15	134	8.9	1
Justin Shorter	12	137	11.4	0

KICKING: **Jake Pinegar, 11-12 FGs, 89 pts.**
TACKLES: **Micah Parsons, 109**; Garrett Taylor, 84
SACKS: Yetur Gross-Matos, 9.0
INTERCEPTIONS: 4 players tied with 2

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE NITTANY LIONS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP PENN STATE

"They're a contender, but they're not quite Ohio State. (James) Franklin is a really smart coach, he knows that they really have to keep pushing offensive innovation to win the big games. ... Defensively they're as talented as anyone in the country now. Brent Pry is back again, he could easily be a head coach somewhere else. That consistency has been really good for them, and he's taken them to that next level. ... Micah Parsons is coming back and he's an exceptional, exceptional football player. There's a really good culture there on defense where they've got the luxury of developing guys and not rushing them in. ... They like to be creative on offense, and hiring Kirk (Ciarrocca) makes a lot of sense. They have better personnel to run Minnesota's stuff. It wouldn't shock me if he got that job solely off of what they did to Brent Pry's defense last year. ... Expect the tight end (Pat) Freiermuth to play a much bigger role this year with K.J. Hamler declaring. The offensive line is really good, they've really brought that position group back from the dead from when James got there. They could compete for the conference. ... They don't have the raw talent of an Ohio State, they're probably neck and neck with Michigan. Franklin isn't going to settle, though."

RUTGERS Scarlet Knights

National Forecast: **107** · Big Ten East Prediction: **7** · Projected Record: **2-10, 1-8 Big Ten**

Isaih Pacheco

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Greg Schiano
Record at School: 68-67 (11 years)
Career Record: 68-67 (11 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Sean Gleeson
Defensive Coordinator: Robb Smith
Location: New Brunswick, NJ
Stadium: SHI Stadium (52,454)

KEY SCARLET KNIGHTS

ISAIH PACHECO, RB Produced a team-best seven touchdowns and tallied the 10th-most rushing yards (729) in the Big Ten last season.

BRENDON WHITE, FS Ohio State transfer totaled 65 tackles while starting six of 24 games the past two years for the Buckeyes.

TYSHON FOGG, LB Fogg's 104 tackles last season make him the Big Ten's returning leader in that category.

KEY LOSSES

RAHEEM BLACKSHEAR, RB Rutgers' best offensive player in 2018, he sat out the final eight games in order to preserve his redshirt and then transferred to Virginia Tech.

DAMON HAYES, DB Career included 164 tackles, six interceptions and 25 pass breakups.

WILLINGTON PREVILON, DL Named the team MVP after recording 35 tackles and 7.5 stops for a loss, flashing versatility.

RISING STAR

One couldn't blame defensive end **MIKE TVERDOV** for celebrating Greg Schiano's return. After all, he watched his brother, Pete, start two seasons at his same position under Schiano in the late 2000s. Mike started 10 of 12 games and recorded a team-best seven QB hurries last season.

In December 2000, Rutgers made then-34-year-old Greg Schiano the youngest head coach in college football at the time. Brash and naive to the challenges of resurrecting a downtrodden Big East program, Schiano vowed that the Scarlet Knights would win a national championship under his watch. They finished a season ranked just once in his 11-year tenure.

Flash forward to December 2019, when Schiano was brought back to again resurrect Rutgers. And while his task of rebuilding the Scarlet Knights will be more challenging in the mightier Big Ten, Schiano again predicted New Jersey's team would eventually become No. 1 in the land.

It's a bold statement for a program that won just 18.8 percent of its games under Schiano's predecessor, Chris Ash. But it's one that Schiano believes is possible. After all, he did turn Rutgers from a Big East doormat into a perennial bowl qualifier before leaving for a two-year stint as the Tampa Bay Buccaneers head coach.

"We're chasing some big dudes. No, we're not chasing — we're passing," says Schiano, who was away from football for two years after his Tampa Bay job but returned with a three-year run as the Ohio State defensive coordinator. "That has to be our leaping-off point."

OFFENSE Rutgers finished last in the Big Ten in total offense in each of Ash's four seasons, averaging 271.9 yards per game during that span. But there's hope in the arrival of Sean Gleeson, who was hired to run the offense after coordinating an Oklahoma State unit that ranked 21st nationally in yards per game (453.9) last season.

Gleeson is Rutgers' 11th offensive coordinator in 11 years. A former Division III quarterback, Gleeson will oversee competitions at virtually every position.

That includes quarterback, where Artur Sitkowski will look to win back his starting job after requesting to sit out the final eight games of his second season in order to preserve a redshirt. Sitkowski started 11 of 12 games as a true freshman in 2018 but had a nation-leading 18 interceptions with only four touchdowns. Johnny Langan, who completed just 50.3 percent of his passes while starting the final eight games, figures to be Sitkowski's stiffest competition. Redshirt freshman Cole Snyder and true freshman Evan Simon will also be in the mix.

Running back is Rutgers' deepest position, featuring Isaih Pacheco, Kay'Ron Adams and Aaron Young. The trio combined for 1,043 yards. Schiano has kept mum on exactly what the offense will look like, but Gleeson's history leans on multiple-personnel spread schemes that rely on quick tempo and a power running game.

There's plenty of uncertainty in a receiver corps with a lot of depth but only one proven pass catcher — Bo Melton, who registered team-high totals in catches (30) and receiving yards (427) in a breakthrough junior year.

DEFENSE Schiano tapped one of his former assistants, Robb Smith, as his defensive coordinator. Smith helped the Scarlet Knights claim a share of the Big East

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Monmouth
Sept.	12	Syracuse
Sept.	19	at Temple
Sept.	26	at Ohio State
Oct.	3	Illinois
Oct.	10	at Purdue
Oct.	17	Indiana
Oct.	24	Nebraska
Oct.	31	at Maryland
Nov.	14	Michigan
Nov.	21	at Michigan State
Nov.	28	Penn State

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 2-10, 0-9 BIG TEN

Aug.	30	Massachusetts	W	48-21
Sept.	7	at Iowa	L	0-30
Sept.	21	Boston College	L	16-30
Sept.	28	at Michigan	L	0-52
Oct.	5	Maryland	L	7-48
Oct.	12	at Indiana	L	0-35
Oct.	19	Minnesota	L	7-42
Oct.	26	Liberty	W	44-34
Nov.	2	at Illinois	L	10-38
Nov.	16	Ohio State	L	21-56
Nov.	23	Michigan State	L	0-27
Nov.	30	at Penn State	L	6-27

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	B1G	NATIONAL
Scoring	13.3 ppg	14	129
Rushing	133.8 ypg	11	101
Passing	139.3 ypg	13	121
Total	273.1 ypg	14	129
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	36.7 ppg	14	123
Rushing	201.1 ypg	14	107
Passing	232.5 ypg	11	76
Total	433.6 ypg	12	98
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
-13	-1.08	14	126

2020 RECRUITS

1. Chris Long, ATH, Willingboro, NJ
2. Tyreem Powell, ATH, Vineland, NJ
3. Max Melton, CB, Egg Harbor City, NJ
4. Bryan Felter, OG, Oradell, NJ
5. Evan Simon, QB, Manheim, PA
6. Wesley Bailey, DE, Clearwater, FL
7. Elijuwan Mack, S, Montvale, NJ
8. Robert Longerbeam, ATH, Alexandria, VA
9. Cedrice Paillant, OT, New Rochelle, NY
10. Isaiah Wright, DT, Jersey City, NJ
11. Ahmirr Robinson, WR, Union, NJ
12. Victor Konopka, DE, Blairstown, NJ
13. Tunde Fatukasi, OG, Brooklyn, NY
14. Jessie Parson III, RB, New Rochelle, NY
15. Tahjay Moore, DE, New Brunswick, NJ
16. Shawn Collins, TE, Montclair, NJ
17. Jamier Wright-Collins, LB, Paterson, NJ
18. Troy Rainey, DT, Bridgeport, CT
19. Kyle Monangai, RB, Ramsey, NJ
20. Jack Del Rio, LB, Clearwater, FL

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Bruce Schwartzman

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	27.6	112
Defense	30.5	96
Margin	**-2.9**	**108**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	34.1%	127
Defense	45.0%	99
Margin	**-10.9%**	**126**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	4.5	126
Defense	6.2	104
Margin	**-1.7**	**126**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.1	104
Defense	5.0	116
Margin	**-0.9**	**118**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-3.8	95
Actual	-13	126
Margin	**-9.2**	**126**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

5.4%

Rutgers quarterbacks attempted 278 passes last season and were intercepted 15 times. With a 5.4 percent interceptions rate that ranked as the third highest in the nation, the Scarlet Knights were intercepted more often, on average, than any other Power 5 conference team.

2.8

Only three FBS teams failed to score 3.0 points or more in the fourth quarter of games, on average. Rutgers averaged 2.8 points per contest in the final 15 minutes, which was the worst among P5 teams and No. 128 overall.

0.216

Rutgers scored 0.216 points per play in 2019, which was the lowest average among all Power 5 teams and ranked No. 129 in the country.

title in 2012 while overseeing a unit that ranked fourth nationally in scoring defense (14.2 ppg).

The team's deepest position is linebacker, which returns six players with starting experience. Because of the depth in a unit that features proven defensive playmakers such as Tyshon Fogg, Olakunle Fatukasi, Tyreek Maddox-Williams and Drew Singleton, Schiano is expected to experiment with a 3-4 scheme after primarily employing 4-3 units in the past.

While there are big question marks on a defensive line that will rely on the leadership of nose tackle Julius Turner and defensive end Mike Tverdov, the secondary could be improved thanks to the return of cornerbacks Avery Young and Tre Avery and the addition of Ohio State transfer Brendon White.

SPECIALISTS The Scarlet Knights return their two primary kicking specialists. Justin Davidovicz drilled 20-of-26 field goals (76.9 percent) and has made all 35 extra points during his first two years handling the placekicking job. Adam Korsak is one of the nation's most decorated punters, earning recognition as a Ray Guy Award semifinalist and All-Big Ten honoree with a punting average of 43.8 yards.

Wisconsin transfer Aron Cruickshank is hoping for a waiver to play in 2020. The kickoff return specialist returned two for touchdowns last season for the Badgers.

FINAL ANALYSIS For as much success as Schiano had late in his first go-round as Rutgers' coach, it should be noted that it took him five years to reach a bowl. There's a reason why Schiano pushed for an eight-year deal, and that's because this is widely considered one of the toughest rebuilding jobs in the country. Schiano admits the challenge of competing in the Big Ten makes the job daunting. But he points to improved facilities and a renewed commitment from university officials. "I think we're in better position to make our move," he says.

While long-suffering Rutgers fans hope it won't take Schiano long to rediscover his magic, the reality is this is a program that has finished last in the Big Ten East Division in all but one year since its most recent bowl appearance in 2014. Finishing out of the basement would be a good place to start.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**18**	**Bo Melton (Sr.)**	21	Eddie Lewis (Jr.)
WR		Aron Cruickshank (Jr.)	5	Paul Woods (So.)
WR	**83**	**Isaiah Washington (So.)**	15	Shameen Jones (Jr.)
LT	71	Raiqwon O'Neal (So.)	72	Cedrice Paillant (Jr.)
LG	**66**	**Nick Krimin (Sr.)**	77	Sam Vretman (Sr.)
C	59	CJ Hanson (Fr.)	50	Owen Bowles (Jr.)
RG	**61**	**Mike Lonsdorf (Sr.)**	74	Sam Howson (Sr.)
RT	70	Reggie Sutton (So.)	60	Omari Cooper (Sr.)
TE	11	Johnathan Lewis (Jr.)	**10**	**Matt Alaimo (So.)**
QB	8	Artur Sitkowski (So.)	**17**	**Johnny Langan (So.)**
RB	**1**	**Isaih Pacheco (Jr.)**	4	Aaron Young (So.)

DEFENSE (8)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**97**	**Mike Tverdov (Jr.)**	45	Jamree Kromah (So.)
NT	**50**	**Julius Turner (Sr.)**	57	Jaohne Duggan (Jr.)
DT	99	Michael Dwumfour (Sr.)		Ireland Burke (So.)
DE	26	CJ Onyechi (Jr.)	40	Nihym Anderson (So.)
OLB	**8**	**Tyshon Fogg (Sr.)**	17	Deion Jennings (So.)
MLB	**3**	**Olakunle Fatukasi (Sr.)**	11	Drew Singleton (Jr.)
OLB	**9**	**Tyreek Maddox-Williams (Sr.)**	6	Rashawn Battle (Sr.)
CB	**2**	**Avery Young (Jr.)**	4	Tim Barrow (Jr.)
CB	21	Tre Avery (Sr.)	5	Kessawn Abraham (Jr.)
SS	**12**	**Christian Izien (So.)**	**25**	**Jarrett Paul (Jr.)**
FS	7	Brendon White (Sr.)	29	Lawrence Stevens (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	95	Justin Davidovicz (Sr.)	**KR**		Aron Cruickshank (Jr.)
P	94	Adam Korsak (Sr.)	**PR**	2	Avery Young (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Johnny Langan	**159**	**80**	**840**	**4**	**9**
Artur Sitkowski	**68**	**44**	**429**	**1**	**2**
McLane Carter	47	27	368	2	4

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Isaih Pacheco	**169**	**729**	**4.3**	**7**
Johnny Langan	**134**	**391**	**2.9**	**3**
Kay'Ron Adams	**48**	**161**	**3.4**	**1**
Aaron Young	**43**	**153**	**3.6**	**0**
Raheem Blackshear	29	88	3.0	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Bo Melton	**30**	**427**	**14.2**	**2**
Raheem Blackshear	29	310	10.7	2
Isaiah Washington	**18**	**272**	**15.1**	**1**
Aaron Young	**15**	**113**	**7.5**	**0**
Mohamed Jabbie	14	149	10.6	1

KICKING: **Justin Davidovicz, 11-15 FGs, 51 pts.**
TACKLES: **Tyshon Fogg, 104; Olakunle Fatukasi, 85**
SACKS: **Rashawn Battle, 3**; Elorm Lumor, 3
INTERCEPTIONS: **Tre Avery, 2**; Damon Hayes, 2

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE SCARLET KNIGHTS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP RUTGERS

"They're all in on Greg (Schiano), so we'll find out if that works maybe two or three years from now. He's a Jersey guy, he has great relationships with the high schools in the state, and the decision-makers and influencers around that program are just eaten up with him. That's the biggest reason he got the job back. ... It's a very different job than when he was there last. It's a Big Ten job on the wrong side of the division split. Judging from the staff makeup, they want to find those moral victories recruiting in state while they work on the roster. ... At OSU, he would make you prepare for a lot, and your offense would have to simplify what it did because you're trying to scheme against a lot of looks. They could make you overthink into a mistake. It was a pro-style defense, lots of pressure, lots of single-high safety. That's where he wants them to go, but you can't plug that in and make it work in one offseason. ... It's really early to tell, but you can see them winning on the Jersey kids. Will that hold if they win two games? Will someone like Penn State flip them?... It's going to be a long-term process, and it's uncharted territory. They were only ever relevant in the old Big East. This is gonna be way harder. But that's why he's the guy. He'll get a longer runway to get it going than if they had hired any other coach."

ILLINOIS Fighting Illini

National Forecast: **62** · Big Ten West Prediction: **7** · Projected Record: **5-7, 2-7 Big Ten**

Brandon Peters

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Lovie Smith
Record at School: 15-34 (4 years)
Career Record: 15-34 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Rod Smith
Defensive Coordinator: Lovie Smith
Location: Champaign, IL
Stadium: Memorial Stadium (60,670)

KEY FIGHTING ILLINI

BRANDON PETERS, QB Grad transfer from Michigan was a hit in his first season, throwing for 1,884 yards and 18 TDs while leading the team to its first bowl in five years.

JOSH IMATORBHEBHE, WR Transfer from USC was at the other end of most of Peters' big passes.

JAKE HANSEN, LB Butkus Award semifinalist finished third on the team in tackles despite missing final four games with a back injury.

KEY LOSSES

DELE HARDING, LB Led the Big Ten and ranked second nationally with 153 tackles, including 14.5 for a loss. Also a two-time captain.

OLUWOLE BETIKU JR., DE Grad transfer from USC led the team with nine sacks, then left early for a shot at the NFL.

REGGIE CORBIN, RB Team's leading rusher in 2018 and '19 finished 12th on the school's career rushing list with 2,361 yards.

RISING STAR

Tight end **LUKE FORD** hoped to be eligible in 2019 after transferring from Georgia, but he was denied in his appeal to the NCAA. A top-50 recruit out of Carterville, Ill., he is a threat both as a receiver and blocker. With returnee Daniel Barker, Ford provides a nice 1-2 punch at the position.

Two games in 2019 — at home against Wisconsin and on the road at Michigan State — changed the trajectory of Lovie Smith's Illinois football program.

On Oct. 19, the No. 6 Badgers came to Champaign as 31-point favorites — and left with a 24–23 loss courtesy of James McCourt's last-second field goal. Just 2–4 before Wisconsin came to Champaign, Illinois got a boost it desperately needed.

Three weeks later, the Illini fell behind by 25 points in the first half at East Lansing. Past Illinois teams would have given up and lost by 40. Or worse. But led by quarterback Brandon Peters and receiver Josh Imatorbhebhe, Illinois rallied for an improbable 37–34 victory over the Spartans. The bowl-clinching win marked the biggest comeback in school history.

It was the kind of performance that made Smith eager to start the 2020 season. "We just like our team," Smith says. "I talked about 15 freshmen starting three years ago. Those are the seniors now. We're older now. We have great leadership at every position."

And hope for better days ahead. When the 2020 season starts, Smith promises his guys will be ready.

OFFENSE For the first time in the Smith era, Illinois brings back a full-time starting quarterback. After arriving last summer as a transfer from Michigan, Peters quickly took control of the offense.

"He's got a very good understanding of what we're trying to do," offensive coordinator Rod Smith says. "He's seen a lot of different looks, a lot of different schemes, a lot of different game plans thrown at him."

His teammates expect even more from Peters in 2020.

"I think he can be a great player," center Doug Kramer says. "He has the arm strength to throw the ball anywhere. I think you are going to see a big year from B.P. I think the world of him. He's going to fight until he can't anymore."

The Illini missed spring ball because of the COVID-19 pandemic. But bowl practices gave Peters extra time to work with the team.

Peters will look early and often to USC transfer Imatorbhebhe, Illinois' leading returning receiver.

"To me, he's one of the centerpieces of our offense moving forward," Rod Smith says of Imatorbhebhe. "He's a difference-maker when he's healthy. I watched him run by just about every corner in our league."

Tailback Mike Epstein suffered a torn ACL in the opener against Akron. After an aggressive rehab, the Florida product is expected back in time for the 2020 season.

Tight end will be an Illini strength, with returning starter Daniel Barker joined by Georgia transfer Luke Ford.

Four of five starters return on the offensive line. Kramer is the unquestioned leader. He showed off his strength on YouTube during the spring, pushing a pickup truck as part of his workout routine.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	Illinois State
Sept.	12	Connecticut
Sept.	19	Bowling Green
Oct.	3	at Rutgers
Oct.	10	at Nebraska
Oct.	17	Purdue
Oct.	24	Minnesota
Oct.	31	at Wisconsin
Nov.	7	Iowa
Nov.	14	at Indiana
Nov.	21	Ohio State
Nov.	28	at Northwestern

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 6-7, 4-5 BIG TEN

Aug.	31	Akron	W	42-3
Sept.	7	at Connecticut	W	31-23
Sept.	14	Eastern Michigan	L	31-34
Sept.	22	Nebraska	L	38-42
Oct.	5	at Minnesota	L	17-40
Oct.	12	Michigan	L	25-42
Oct.	19	Wisconsin	W	24-23
Oct.	26	at Purdue	W	24-6
Nov.	2	Rutgers	W	38-10
Nov.	9	at Michigan State	W	37-34
Nov.	23	at Iowa	L	10-19
Nov.	30	Northwestern	L	10-29
Dec.	30	vs. California #	L	20-35

#Redbox Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	B1G	NATIONAL
Scoring	26.7 ppg	8	79
Rushing	144.2 ypg	9	87
Passing	185.3 ypg	11	105
Total	329.5 ypg	12	115
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	26.2 ppg	10	54
Rushing	195.5 ypg	13	103
Passing	212.9 ypg	9	45
Total	408.5 ypg	11	77
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
+10	+0.77	1	12

2020 RECRUITS

1. James Frenchie, WR, Saint Louis, MO
2. Reggie Love, RB, Saint Louis, MO
3. Tre'Von Riggins, DT, Saint Petersburg, FL
4. Cooper Davis, DE, Melbourne, FL
5. Deuce Spann, QB, Saint Petersburg, FL
6. Jer'Zhan Newton, DE, Clearwater, FL
7. Anthony Shipton, DT, Norwalk, CA
8. Phifer Griffin, OT, Monroe, NC
9. Lavar Gardner, ATH, Decatur, GA*
10. Kevin Tyler, OT, Saint Louis, MO
11. Quinton McCoy, DT, Valrico, FL
12. Blaise Sparks, OT, North Fort Myers, FL
13. Tahveon Nicholson, ATH, Jacksonville, FL*

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Derek Neal/Illinois Athletics

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	31.3	32
Defense	28.6	43
Margin	**+2.6**	**36**

Efficiency[2]		Rank
Offense	36.7%	115
Defense	41.1%	58
Margin	**-4.4%**	**99**

Explosiveness[3]		Rank
Offense	5.0	116
Defense	5.6	60
Margin	**-0.6**	**101**

Finishing Drives[4]		Rank
Offense	4.6	63
Defense	4.3	42
Margin	**+0.3**	**51**

Adjusted TO Margin[5]		Rank
Projected	-4.5	101
Actual	10	10
Margin	**+14.5**	**2**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

13.64%

Illinois scored six defensive touchdowns in 2019, which tied Appalachian State for the most in FBS. Of the 44 total touchdowns the Fighting Illini produced last season, 13.64 percent were credited to the defense — the highest rate of non-offensive touchdowns in the Big Ten and tied for second in FBS.

19.65%

Only eight FBS offenses failed to reach the opponent's red zone in at least 20 percent of their offensive possessions in 2019. Illinois, which penetrated the 20-yard line just 34 times all season and on 19.65 percent of its drives, ranked No. 124 in the country and No. 13 in the Big Ten.

9.63%

Illinois QBs were sacked 39 times and attempted 366 passes in 2019. Illinois' sack rate of 9.63 percent ranked 13th in the Big Ten and No. 116 in the country.

Tackles Alex Palczewski and Vederian Lowe are also fourth-year starters.

"Any time you can return that battery, the line and the quarterback, that's a plus for your football team," Rod Smith says.

DEFENSE Before the 2019 season, the unit lost star defensive end Bobby Roundtree to a career-ending spinal injury suffered in a swimming accident. Roundtree returned to campus and provided constant inspiration for his team.

The strength of the defense is at linebacker, where Jake Hansen and Milo Eifler return.

"I think we know we can play with anyone in the country just based on some of the things we did last year," Hansen says. "We just have to put it all together every Saturday and be a team that's more consistent."

The secondary is another strength, led by cornerback Nate Hobbs and safeties Tony Adams and Sydney Brown. Cornerback Marquez Beason was on track for a big rookie season before suffering a knee injury in training camp. He is expected to be full go in time for the opener.

Illinois added two new coaches on the defensive staff, hiring Al Davis (tackles) and Jimmy Lindsey (ends) to work with the line.

SPECIALISTS Blake Hayes, part of the invasion of Australian punters, is coming off an All-Big Ten season. Hayes figures to receive strong consideration for the Ray Guy Award.

McCourt will go down in Illinois history as the guy who beat No. 6 Wisconsin with a last-second kick. He can convert from long range and has earned the trust of the staff.

FINAL ANALYSIS Since he took over in 2016, Lovie Smith had been pointing to 2020 as Illinois' potential breakout season. The team happily jumped the gun a bit, reaching a bowl in 2019.

The three-game losing streak to close the season kept Illinois from its first winning season since 2011. But with a favorable schedule, including three winnable home nonconference games to open up, the Illini are dreaming bigger. Smith welcomes back a veteran offense led by Peters and four returning regulars on the line. If the defense continues to take the ball away at a high rate (it was fourth nationally in turnovers produced), Illinois will contend for another bowl bid.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (9)

WR	**9**	**Josh Imatorbhebhe (Sr.)**	5	Trevon Sidney (Sr.)
WR	8	Casey Washington (So.)	**4**	**Ricky Smalling (Sr.)**
WR	**86**	**Donny Navarro (Jr.)**	11	Carlos Sandy (So.)
LT	**79**	**Vederian Lowe (Sr.)**	66	Jordyn Slaughter (So.)
LG	**53**	**Kendrick Green (Jr.)**	66	Jordyn Slaughter (So.)
C	**65**	**Doug Kramer (Sr.)**	58	Preston Engel (So.)
RG	73	Jake Cerny (Sr.)	52	Verdis Brown (So.)
RT	**63**	**Alex Palczewski (Sr.)**	54	Julian Pearl (So.)
TE	82	Luke Ford (So.)	**87**	**Daniel Barker (Jr.)**
QB	**18**	**Brandon Peters (Sr.)**	12	Matt Robinson (So.)
RB	26	Mike Epstein (Jr.)	32	Chase Brown (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	99	Owen Carney Jr. (Sr.)	88	Keith Randolph Jr. (Fr.)
DT	93	Calvin Avery (Jr.)		Anthony Shipton (Jr.)
DT	98	Deon Pate (Jr.)	69	Moses Okpala (Fr.)
DE	91	Jamal Woods (Jr.)	92	Isaiah Gay (Sr.)
OLB	**35**	**Jake Hansen (Sr.)**	40	Shammond Cooper (Fr.)
MLB	45	Khalan Tolson (Jr.)	44	Tarique Barnes (So.)
OLB	**5**	**Milo Eifler (Sr.)**	2	Derrick Smith (Jr.)
CB	3	Marquez Beason (Fr.)	21	Jartavius Martin (Jr.)
CB	**8**	**Nate Hobbs (Sr.)**	31	Devon Witherspoon (So.)
SS	**30**	**Sydney Brown (Jr.)**	15	Delano Ware (Jr.)
FS	**6**	**Tony Adams (Sr.)**	25	Kerby Joseph (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	17	James McCourt (Sr.)	**KR**	22	Kenyon Sims (So.)
P	14	Blake Hayes (Sr.)	**PR**	84	Jordan Holmes (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Brandon Peters	275	152	1,884	18	8
Matt Robinson	77	42	475	1	0
Isaiah Williams	10	3	38	0	1

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Reggie Corbin	143	675	4.7	7
Dre Brown	113	584	5.2	5
Ra'Von Bonner	65	225	3.5	3
Brandon Peters	74	213	2.9	3
Jakari Norwood	15	94	6.3	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Josh Imatorbhebhe	33	634	19.2	9
Donny Navarro	27	345	12.8	2
Ricky Smalling	24	225	9.4	1
Daniel Barker	18	273	15.2	4

KICKING: **James McCourt, 13-19 FGs, 81 pts.**
TACKLES: Dele Harding, 153; **Sydney Brown, 88**
SACKS: Oluwole Betiku Jr., 9.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Dele Harding, 3; **Sydney Brown, 3**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE FIGHTING ILLINI

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP ILLINOIS

"Lovie (Smith) had a breakthrough in 2019. They got a lot better last season. We saw a big jump in their overall talent level. In general, they looked a lot more like a team. I think you look at a game like Wisconsin, and they're winning on emotion and buy-in, and those are the moments you have to get to turn the corner at these jobs. ... Defensively, they looked a little bit like Iowa, getting really fundamental and executing on it. ... Offensively, they ran the ball a lot better. They really balanced bringing in the right kind of grad transfers to add to the nucleus they've built. That is not an easy thing to do. Brandon Peters has worked out really well for them. His health is a huge concern. Without him, they were pretty bad. I don't think they have a real second option. ... They're still thin, and they're still capable of falling apart if the right injuries hit them. ... Recruiting-wise, they're really pushing hard. They're selling the new facility; they're pushing Lovie's NFL experience. Last season has really changed how they're being received by the kids. He bought himself some time, and that's something that recruits really pick up on. This isn't an experiment anymore. ... With their depth, it's hard to see them making a huge jump up. This year needs to be about consecutive winning seasons. There's still a lot left to work on here."

IOWA Hawkeyes

National Forecast: **25** · Big Ten West Prediction: **3** · Projected Record: **8-4, 5-4**

Ihmir Smith-Marsette

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Kirk Ferentz
Record at School: 162-104 (20 years)
Career Record: 174-125 (23 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Brian Ferentz
Defensive Coordinator: Phil Parker
Location: Iowa City, IA
Stadium: Kinnick Stadium (70,585)

KEY HAWKEYES

TYLER GOODSON, RB Became the first true freshman to lead Iowa in rushing (638 yards) last season.

ALARIC JACKSON, LT On course to be a four-year starter at left tackle.

CHAUNCEY GOLSTON, DE Started all 13 games last season and recorded 47 tackles, including 9.5 for a loss.

KEY LOSSES

NATE STANLEY, QB Started 39 consecutive games and finished second on Iowa's all-time passing list with 8,302 yards and 68 touchdowns.

TRISTAN WIRFS, OT Named Big Ten Offensive Lineman of the Year as a junior last season.

A.J. EPENESA, DE Led team with 14.5 tackles for a loss and 11.5 sacks last season.

RISING STAR

Redshirt sophomore quarterback **SPENCER PETRAS** will have plenty of firepower at receiver and will be protected by an experienced offensive line. Petras also has an emerging star at running back to help provide balance, so the pieces are in place for him to excel. He just has to win the job.

Kirk Ferentz will be 65 years old by the start of the 2020 season, but much like his team, he shows no signs of slowing down. Iowa just finished a five-year stretch with 47 victories, including a 10–3 record last season. It was the sixth double-digit win season under Ferentz, and many of the key players from that team return, including sophomore running back Tyler Goodson, senior All-Big Ten left tackle Alaric Jackson, senior defensive end Chauncey Golston, senior receivers Ihmir Smith-Marsette and Brandon Smith and senior All-America kicker Keith Duncan.

The losses are significant, too, with three-year starting quarterback Nate Stanley having graduated, and with offensive tackle Tristan Wirfs, defensive end A.J. Epenesa and defensive back Geno Stone all having declared for the 2020 NFL Draft as juniors.

But Ferentz is getting used to replacing early departures, and the last five seasons have shown that his program reloads more than it rebuilds at this stage.

OFFENSE California native Spencer Petras is the leading candidate to replace Stanley at quarterback. Petras didn't get much playing time last season, but he has a strong arm, good size at 6'5" and 230 pounds and the advantage of some experience. Redshirt freshman Alex Padilla and incoming freshman Deuce Hogan would like to challenge, and they will be given that opportunity this fall, although losing the chance to compete in spring practice didn't help Padilla's cause. Hogan comes highly acclaimed, so Petras clearly has some work to do.

Whoever wins the QB competition will have the luxury of throwing to a deep and talented group of receivers, led by Smith-Marsette, and will have a four-year starter at left tackle protecting his blindside in Alaric Jackson.

Smith-Marsette led the team with 722 receiving yards last season and also returned two kickoffs for touchdowns, while Brandon Smith finished with 439 receiving yards and five TD catches despite missing four games.

Sam LaPorta also showed signs of being Iowa's next great tight end as a true freshman last season, finishing with 15 catches for 188 yards in limited playing time.

Goodson became the first true freshman to lead Iowa in rushing, with 638 yards last season. The Georgia native also had 24 receptions for 166 yards.

The offensive line suffered a huge blow with Wirfs declaring for the NFL Draft, but regulars return at the other four positions. In fact, Jackson is poised to be the first four-year starter at left tackle in program history.

Coy Cronk, a graduate transfer from Indiana where he started 40 games at tackle, could replace Wirfs at right tackle, and that would give Iowa two of the most experienced tackles in the country.

DEFENSE Three starters have to be replaced on the defensive line, one at linebacker and two in the secondary.

Epenesa's ability to pressure the quarterback as a defensive end will be sorely missed, because he made it easier for the linebackers and defensive backs to defend the pass. Golston showed signs of stardom last season as the

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Northern Iowa
Sept.	12	Iowa State
Sept.	18	at Minnesota
Sept.	26	Northern Illinois
Oct.	3	Michigan State
Oct.	10	at Ohio State
Oct.	17	at Penn State
Oct.	24	Northwestern
Nov.	7	at Illinois
Nov.	14	Nebraska
Nov.	21	at Purdue
Nov.	28	Wisconsin

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 10-3, 6-3 BIG TEN

Aug.	31	Miami (Ohio)	W	38-14
Sept.	7	Rutgers	W	30-0
Sept.	14	at Iowa State	W	18-17
Sept.	28	Middle Tennessee	W	48-3
Oct.	5	at Michigan	L	3-10
Oct.	12	Penn State	L	12-17
Oct.	19	Purdue	W	26-20
Oct.	26	at Northwestern	W	20-0
Nov.	9	at Wisconsin	L	22-24
Nov.	16	Minnesota	W	23-19
Nov.	23	Illinois	W	19-10
Nov.	29	at Nebraska	W	27-24
Dec.	27	vs. USC #	W	49-24

#Holiday Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	B1G	NATIONAL
Scoring	25.8 ppg	10	88
Rushing	137.6 ypg	10	97
Passing	228.9 ypg	7	68
Total	366.5 ypg	10	99
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	14.0 ppg	2	5
Rushing	112.5 ypg	4	14
Passing	195.7 ypg	5	19
Total	308.2 ypg	5	12
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
+9	+0.69	2	14

2020 RECRUITS

1. Logan Jones, DT, Council Bluffs, IA
2. Deontae Craig, DE, Culver, IN
3. Luke Lachey, TE, Columbus, OH
4. Tyler Elsbury, OG, Byron, IL
5. Deuce Hogan, QB, Grapevine, TX
6. Gavin Williams, RB, West Des Moines, IA
7. Elijah Yelverton, TE, Cedar Hill, TX
8. Josh Volk, OG, Cedar Rapids, IA
9. Mason Richman, OT, Stilwell, KS
10. Yahya Black, ATH, Marshall, MN
11. Leshon Williams, RB, Oak Lawn, IL
12. Ethan Hurkett, LB, Cedar Rapids, IA
13. Reggie Bracy, S, Mobile, AL
14. Isaiah Bruce, DT, Lena, IL
15. Diante Vines, WR, Watertown, CT
16. AJ Lawson, CB, Decatur, IL
17. Lukas Van Ness, DE, Barrington, IL
18. Michael Lois, DE, Elkhorn, WI
19. Jay Higgins, LB, Indianapolis, IN
20. Quavon Matthews, WR, Largo, FL
21. Brenden Deasfernandes, CB, Belleville, MI

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Max Allen/Hawkeyesports.com

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	30.5	49
Defense	26.7	12
Margin	**+3.7**	**22**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	43.0%	60
Defense	39.5%	43
Margin	**+3.5%**	**51**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.5	86
Defense	4.8	14
Margin	**+0.7**	**33**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.2	92
Defense	3.7	12
Margin	**+0.5**	**40**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	5.1	25
Actual	9	14
Margin	**+3.9**	**31**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

30.8%

The Hawkeyes ranked among the nation's best in fourth-down defense. Opponents were just 4-for-13 on fourth down, and that 30.8 percent conversion rate allowed ranked atop the Big Ten and fourth in the country.

44.83%

On average, FBS teams scored a touchdown 60.39 percent of the time after reaching the red zone. But the Iowa defense allowed touchdowns only 44.83 percent of the time. Only Ohio State (41.38) was better among Big Ten defenses last season, as the Hawkeyes ranked No. 7 overall in that category.

32.4

Iowa proved itself to be one of the most disciplined teams in the country in 2019. The Hawkeyes were penalized for an average of 32.4 yards per game, fewest in the Big Ten and third fewest in FBS.

other starter at defensive end, but now he has to take his game to a higher level without Epenesa.

Junior Daviyon Nixon also showed flashes as a backup defensive tackle last season, and his role should increase this fall as a starter.

There is plenty of experience at linebacker, where junior Djimon Colbert and senior Nick Niemann both played extensively last season.

Iowa often uses five defensive backs, but that might not be as easy to do this season with Stone having declared for the NFL Draft, and with All-Big Ten cornerback Michael Ojemudia having graduated. Senior cornerback Matt Hankins and junior safety Jack Koerner both return after starting 10 and 11 games, respectively, last season. Koerner, a former walk-on, finished second on the team with 81 tackles.

Redshirt sophomore Kaevon Merriweather also returns after starting the 2019 season-opener at safety. He suffered a foot injury in practice the day before the second game, lost the starting job to Koerner and was shut down for the year.

SPECIALISTS The good news is that Iowa has one of the best kickers in the country in Duncan, who made 29-of-34 field-goal attempts last season, including the game-winner against Nebraska.

The bad news is that Iowa has to find a new punter to replace Michael Sleep-Dalton, who performed well last season as a graduate transfer. Sleep-Dalton is from Australia, and his replacement might also come from Down Under if incoming recruit Tory Taylor, who is from Melbourne, can win the job.

FINAL ANALYSIS A lot will depend on what happens at quarterback, because you knew what to expect with the departed Stanley, who finished 3–0 in bowl games and 9–0 against Iowa State, Minnesota and Nebraska.

This is arguably the best group of receivers Ferentz has had in 21 seasons at Iowa, and Goodson has big-play capability as a running back. There are concerns on defense due to losing so many key players, but defensive coordinator Phil Parker has a knack for adjusting to his personnel and for sustaining a level of consistency. With a little luck, Iowa could challenge for what appears to be a wide-open Big Ten West Division.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**12**	**Brandon Smith (Sr.)**	**3**	**Tyrone Tracy Jr. (So.)**
WR	**6**	**Ihmir Smith-Marsette (Sr.)**	89	Nico Ragaini (So.)
LT	**77**	**Alaric Jackson (Sr.)**	79	Jack Plumb (So.)
LG	71	Mark Kallenberger (Jr.)	61	Cole Banwart (Sr.)
C	**65**	**Tyler Linderbaum (So.)**	64	Kyler Schott (Jr.)
RG	**64**	**Kyler Schott (Jr.)**	63	Justin Britt (Fr.)
RT	51	Coy Cronk (Sr.)	73	Cody Ince (So.)
TE	84	Sam LaPorta (So.)	**42**	**Shaun Beyer (Sr.)**
QB	7	Spencer Petras (So.)	8	Alex Padilla (Fr.)
RB	15	Tyler Goodson (So.)	**10**	**Mekhi Sargent (Sr.)**
FB	40	Turner Pallissard (So.)	45	Joe Ludwig (Jr.)

DEFENSE (5)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**57**	**Chauncey Golston (Sr.)**	92	John Waggoner (So.)
DT	54	Daviyon Nixon (Jr.)	99	Noah Shannon (So.)
DT	74	Austin Schulte (Sr.)	85	Logan Lee (So.)
DE	13	Joe Evans (So.)	97	Zach VanValkenburg (Sr.)
OLB	**49**	**Nick Niemann (Sr.)**	35	Barrington Wade (Sr.)
MLB	43	Dillon Doyle (So.)	31	Jack Campbell (So.)
OLB	**32**	**Djimon Colbert (Jr.)**	44	Seth Benson (So.)
CB	**8**	**Matt Hankins (Sr.)**	12	D.J. Johnson (So.)
CB	33	Riley Moss (Jr.)	20	Julius Brents (Jr.)
SS	4	Dane Belton (So.)	15	Dallas Craddieth (So.)
FS	**28**	**Jack Koerner (Jr.)**	26	Kaevon Merriweather (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	3	Keith Duncan (Sr.)	**KR**	6	Ihmir Smith-Marsette (Sr.)
P	2	Ryan Gersonde (Jr.)	**PR**	89	Nico Ragaini (So.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Nate Stanley	399	237	2,951	16	7
Spencer Petras	10	6	25	0	0
Ihmir Smith-Marsette	1	0	0	0	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Tyler Goodson	134	638	4.8	5
Mekhi Sargent	119	563	4.7	4
Toren Young	81	432	5.3	1
Ihmir Smith-Marsette	11	108	9.8	3
Tyrone Tracy Jr.	6	39	6.5	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Nico Ragaini	46	439	9.5	2
Ihmir Smith-Marsette	44	722	16.4	5
Brandon Smith	37	439	11.9	5
Tyrone Tracy Jr.	36	589	16.4	3
Tyler Goodson	24	166	6.9	0

KICKING: **Keith Duncan, 29-34 FGs, 119 pts.**
TACKLES: Kristian Welch, 86; **Jack Koerner, 81**
SACKS: A.J. Epenesa, 11.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Michael Ojemudia, 3

Returning Players in Bold

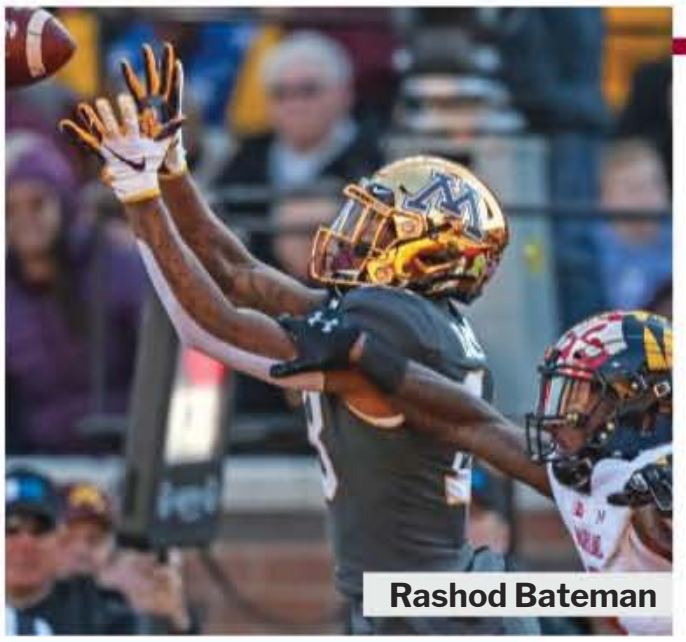
SCOUTING THE HAWKEYES

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP IOWA

"They're as fundamentally sound and disciplined a team as you'll ever see. They're never going to overwhelm you or confuse you. They've got a signature style they won't ever stray from. That sounds like they're predictable, but that doesn't mean they're ever easy. … Defensively they'll bring the same base to every game, Ohio State or homecoming, then add a few wrinkles. It's really simple, basic stuff like packing the middle of the field and making you beat them outside. … Offensively, they love their two-back and multiple tight ends and playing around with those combinations. They've been more run-centric in recent years, but last season you saw them open it up more. Will it be (Spencer) Petras this year? They've got some talented guys behind him. I think they'll have a really strong battle through camp. … They have to get better at tight end; the production wasn't there like it was in 2018. They didn't target them near as much, and they really lean on that position. It looks like they didn't really trust (Sam) LaPorta as a receiver early on. They've signed a couple good prospects there, but it's a development thing with that program. It takes time. … They don't really get enough credit nationally for the talent they turn out on defense. That's all development, especially all those corners they put in the NFL."

MINNESOTA Golden Gophers

National Forecast: **20** · Big Ten West Prediction: **2** · Projected Record: **9-3, 6-3 Big Ten**



Rashod Bateman

Few observers are snickering over P.J. Fleck's "Row the Boat" mantra after the Gophers' performances spiked in his third season at the helm last fall.

Minnesota finished 11–2, with signature wins over No. 5 Penn State and then No. 9 Auburn in the Outback Bowl. It was the first time the Gophers had won more than 10 games since 1904, when high school teams were on its schedule. Fleck's overall success a year ago produced a raise and a contract extension through the 2026 season. The current belief is that this new high-water mark, which included a No. 10 ranking in the postseason AP poll, can be a springboard to being a perennial contender in the Big Ten West.

OFFENSE The Gophers lose the program's all-time all-purpose yardage leader in running back Rodney Smith and a record-setting receiver in Tyler Johnson, but they have plenty of playmakers to fill the gaps. Among Minnesota's eight returning offensive starters are Big Ten Receiver of the Year Rashod Bateman, second-team all-conference quarterback Tanner Morgan, and 2018 leading rusher Mohamed Ibrahim. Not a bad place to start.

A big factor in maintaining the success will be how the Gophers adapt to new offensive coordinator Mike Sanford Jr., and how the former Notre Dame OC and Western Kentucky head coach adapts to what worked under former OC Kirk Ciarrocca before he left for Penn State.

The offense centers on Morgan, who became the first quarterback in Gophers history to finish a season with more than 3,000 passing yards and 30 passing touchdowns. The junior has seen his name on the fringes of the Heisman Trophy conversation.

Bateman is the go-to, but without Johnson, the key will be other receivers stepping up to keep Bateman from seeing constant double-teams. Chris Autman-Bell, who had only 28 receptions in '19, will be the top player expected to step up in Johnson's stead.

When Smith and fellow outgoing senior tailback Shannon Brooks were injured in 2018, Ibrahim stepped up to rush for 1,160 yards and nine touchdowns. He stepped up again in the Outback Bowl, with 20 carries for 140 yards and a touchdown against Auburn.

The starting offensive line returns intact — left tackle Sam Schlueter, left guard Blaise Andries, center Conner Olson, right guard Curtis Dunlap, and right tackle Daniel Faalele.

The top four tight ends are back as well, a list beginning with Jake Paulson and Brevyn Spann-Ford. Sanford's offense will need to get them the ball more.

DEFENSE Minnesota's defense will undergo a transition, with only five starters returning. Gone are five of the top six tacklers from last season, starting with last season's defensive MVP, safety Antoine Winfield Jr., who left early for the NFL. But the rest of the secondary returns — top cornerbacks Benjamin St-Juste and Coney Durr, who each had a team-high 10 pass breakups, and strong safety Jordan Howden, the top returning tackler.

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: P.J. Fleck
Record at School: 23-15 (3 years)
Career Record: 53-37 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Sanford Jr., Matt Simon
Defensive Coordinator: Joe Harasymiak, Joe Rossi
Location: Minneapolis, MN
Stadium: TCF Bank Stadium (50,805)

KEY GOLDEN GOPHERS

TANNER MORGAN, QB Set program records for passing yards (3,253), touchdown passes (30) and completion percentage (66.0).

RASHOD BATEMAN, WR Big Ten Receiver of the Year and a finalist for the Biletnikoff Award with 20.3 yards per reception and 11 TDs.

MICAH DEW-TREADWAY, DL He plugged the middle for a rushing defense ranked 23rd in the nation with 122.4 yards allowed per game.

KEY LOSSES

ANTOINE WINFIELD JR., FS The Gophers' first unanimous All-American since 2005 with a team-leading 88 tackles and a single-season, record-tying seven interceptions.

TYLER JOHNSON, WR Set school records for career receiving yards (3,305) and receiving TDs (33) and was named first-team All-Big Ten.

CARTER COUGHLIN, DE Coughlin played with limitless energy and was a force off the edge with a team-high 9.5 tackles for a loss plus 4.5 sacks.

RISING STAR

TYLER NUBIN, the highest-rated recruit in the 2019 recruiting class, was a "quad-team member," meaning he started on all four special teams as a true freshman. The coaching staff has high confidence he can step in for Winfield at free safety.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3	Florida Atlantic
Sept.	12	Tennessee Tech
Sept.	18	Iowa
Sept.	26	BYU
Oct.	3	at Maryland
Oct.	10	at Wisconsin
Oct.	17	Michigan
Oct.	24	at Illinois
Oct.	31	at Michigan State
Nov.	7	Purdue
Nov.	21	Northwestern
Nov.	27	at Nebraska

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 11-2, 7-2 BIG TEN

Aug.	29	South Dakota State	W	28-21
Sept.	7	at Fresno State (ot)	W	38-35
Sept.	14	Georgia Southern	W	35-32
Sept.	28	at Purdue	W	38-31
Oct.	5	Illinois	W	40-17
Oct.	12	Nebraska	W	34-7
Oct.	19	at Rutgers	W	42-7
Oct.	26	Maryland	W	52-10
Nov.	9	Penn State	W	31-26
Nov.	16	at Iowa	L	19-23
Nov.	23	at Northwestern	W	38-22
Nov.	30	Wisconsin	L	17-38
Jan.	1	vs. Auburn #	W	31-24

#Outback Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	B1G	NATIONAL
Scoring	34.1 ppg	3	21
Rushing	178.7 ypg	6	46
Passing	253.3 ypg	4	47
Total	432.0 ypg	4	42
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	22.5 ppg	6	37
Rushing	122.4 ypg	7	23
Passing	184.2 ypg	2	9
Total	306.6 ypg	3	10
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
+4	+0.31	5	40

2020 RECRUITS

1. Daniel Jackson, WR, Mission, KS
2. Itayvion Brown, LB, Saint Louis, MO
3. Ky Thomas, RB, Topeka, KS
4. Jah Joyner, DE, Danbury, CT
5. Jaqwondis Burns, LB, Dallas, TX
6. Jonathan Mann, WR, Rosemount, MN
7. Douglas Emilien, WR, Fort Lauderdale, FL
8. Danny Striggow, DE, Long Lake, MN
9. Jalen Logan-Redding, DE, Columbia, MO
10. Martes Lewis, OT, Merrillville, IN
11. Michael Dixon, S, Statesboro, GA
12. Gage Keys, DE, Hilliard, OH
13. Lucas Finnessy, LB, Sussex, WI
14. Aireontae Ersery, OT, Kansas City, MO
15. Abner Dubar, S, Anna, TX
16. Jalen Glaze, CB, Tallahassee, FL
17. Ali Saad, DT, Dearborn, MI
18. Cody Lindenberg, LB, Anoka, MN
19. Miles Fleming, ATH, Columbus, OH
20. Victor Pless, ATH, Kennesaw, GA
21. Tyrell Lawrence, OG, Clearwater, FL
22. Austin Henderson, TE, Nashville, TN
23. Melle Kreuder, DE, Munich, Ger.
24. Mark Crawford, P, Perth, Aus.

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Brace Hemmelgarn/University of Minnesota

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	29.7	68
Defense	29.1	63
Margin	**+0.6**	**61**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	46.6%	19
Defense	38.5%	32
Margin	**+8.0%**	**12**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.4	24
Defense	5.1	28
Margin	**+1.3**	**17**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	5.2	12
Defense	4.5	66
Margin	**+0.8**	**26**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	3.0	41
Actual	4	38
Margin	**+1.0**	**53**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

10.2

Quarterback Tanner Morgan averaged 10.2 yards per pass attempt in 2019, which ranked fourth in the country a year ago and is the highest among returning starters in 2020.

42.13

The Golden Gophers averaged 42.13 total yards per offensive possession last season, which ranked eighth nationally. No Big Ten team was better maintaining its drives.

48.4%

Minnesota also converted 48.4 percent of the time on third-down opportunities, which ranked second in the Big Ten and No. 8 overall.

"We are going to have an experienced secondary, (players who) can be leaders for us," third-year defensive coordinator Joe Rossi says.

Winfield's replacement, Tyler Nubin, was a highly regarded prospect out of Illinois, and he cut his teeth playing 12 games, primarily special teams.

Linebacker Mariano Sori-Marin showed the smarts to play all three linebacker spots last season; he's penciled in to start at middle linebacker with stalwart Thomas Barber gone.

The defensive line will have only one returning starter in nose tackle Micah Dew-Treadway, a 6'4", 315-pound plug who is back for a sixth year of eligibility. Rossi is counting on the Notre Dame transfer to lead up front.

With the starting defensive ends gone, Boye Mafe and Esezi Otomewo are the primary edge players expected to have bigger roles this season. Mafe is coming off three sacks last season, including one in the Outback Bowl. Fleck boasts about Mafe's freak athletic characteristics, including a vertical jump approaching 40 inches.

SPECIALISTS These Gophers units lagged well behind the offense and defense last year. Freshman kicker Michael Lantz made 8-of-11 field goals but had a long of only 40 yards while sharing duties with Brock Walker, who went 3-for-4, with a long of 26 yards. New punter Mark Crawford comes from the established Australian pipeline and will look to improve on Jacob Herbers' 38-yard average a year ago.

Returners Demetrius Douglas (punts) and Ibrahim (kickoffs) hope to stabilize those units.

FINAL ANALYSIS Minnesota should contend for a Big Ten West title again this season — if the defense can replace its lost production and Morgan, Bateman and Ibrahim can find a rhythm with Sanford Jr. The Gophers avoided a lot of injuries last year, and with depth concerns, they will need to do so again.

Like at Western Michigan, Fleck had success without a target firmly planted on his team's back. The 2019 team was picked by the conference's media to finish sixth in the division; they were second on a tiebreaker to Wisconsin.

Now we'll see how his team performs under pressure to be one of the conference's best.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**13**	**Rashod Bateman (Jr.)**	17	Seth Green (Sr.)
WR	**7**	**Chris Autman-Bell (Jr.)**		Doug Emilien (Fr.)
WR	82	Demetrius Douglas (Jr.)		Daniel Jackson (Fr.)
LT	**70**	**Sam Schlueter (Sr.)**	50	JJ Guedet (Fr.)
LG	**77**	**Blaise Andries (Jr.)**	65	Axel Ruschmeyer (Jr.)
C	**64**	**Conner Olson (Sr.)**	60	John Michael Schmitz (Jr.)
RG	**51**	**Curtis Dunlap Jr. (So.)**	63	Austin Beier (So.)
RT	**78**	**Daniel Faalele (Jr.)**	73	Tyrell Lawrence (Fr.)
TE	80	Jake Paulson (Jr.)	88	Brevyn Spann-Ford (So.)
QB	**2**	**Tanner Morgan (Jr.)**	5	Zack Annexstad (So.)
RB	24	Mohamed Ibrahim (Jr.)	21	Bryce Williams (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	34	Boye Mafe (Jr.)		Jah Joyner (Fr.)
DT	32	Keonte Schad (Sr.)	44	Rashad Cheney Jr. (Fr.)
DT	**18**	**Micah Dew-Treadway (Sr.)**	52	Jamaal Teague (Jr.)
DE	9	Esezi Otomewo (Jr.)	8	Thomas Rush (Jr.)
LB	14	Braelen Oliver (So.)	13	James Gordon IV (Fr.)
LB	**55**	**Mariano Sori-Marin (Jr.)**	20	Donald Willis (Fr.)
CB	**16**	**Coney Durr (Sr.)**	4	Terell Smith (Jr.)
CB	**25**	**Benjamin St-Juste (Jr.)**	2	Phillip Howard (Sr.)
NB	21	Justus Harris (Sr.)	7	Solomon Brown (Fr.)
SS	**23**	**Jordan Howden (Jr.)**	22	Benny Sapp III (Jr.)
FS	27	Tyler Nubin (So.)	1	Calvin Swenson (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	38	Michael Lantz (So.)	**KR**	24	Mohamed Ibrahim (Jr.)
P	96	Mark Crawford (Fr.)	**PR**	82	Demetrius Douglas (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Tanner Morgan	318	210	3,253	30	7
Jacob Clark	1	1	39	0	0
Seth Green	1	1	1	1	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Rodney Smith	228	1,163	5.1	8
Mohamed Ibrahim	114	604	5.3	7
Shannon Brooks	73	408	5.6	2
Seth Green	29	99	3.4	5
Treyson Potts	7	51	7.3	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Tyler Johnson	86	1,318	15.3	13
Rashod Bateman	60	1,219	20.3	11
Chris Autman-Bell	28	371	13.3	5
Demetrius Douglas	14	157	11.2	0

KICKING: Michael Lantz, 8-11 FGs, 71 pts.
TACKLES: Antoine Winfield Jr., 88; Thomas Barber, 66
SACKS: Sam Renner, 5.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Antoine Winfield Jr., 7

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE GOLDEN GOPHERS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP MINNESOTA

"Very efficient at what they do. Offensively they had a great system last season. They tried to make everything look the same up front. A lot of the RPO stuff, they're really deceptive with it. A lot of the success they had was confusing you out of a decision. Is it an RPO, is it a protection, is it a called pass? Now, with changing out OCs, you would assume it won't be the same but you also think P.J. (Fleck) isn't going to stray too far from what got them there. Because the core is still there, they aren't going to change anything too much. They have a really solid offensive line that does a lot for them. ... They're not necessarily recruiting at a different level in terms of landing big names, they're just expanding out and reaching more places. There's a type of player who instantly clicks with a personality like P.J. That's the success they're having. Some more old-school guys go visit there and it isn't for them. ... P.J. has polarized a lot of coaches in the league. No one wants to knock a guy when he's having success, though. If it's successful you can't argue it, but it's a style that a lot of coaches don't like. ... They've found an identity and a style that really fits that division in terms of standing out and competing against the Iowas and Wisconsins."

NEBRASKA Cornhuskers

National Forecast: **37** · Big Ten West Prediction: **4** · Projected Record: **7-5, 4-5**

Wan'Dale Robinson

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Scott Frost
Record at School: 9-15 (2 year)
Career Record: 28-22 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Matt Lubick
Defensive Coordinator: Erik Chinander
Location: Lincoln, NE
Stadium: Memorial Stadium (85,458)

KEY CORNHUSKERS

WAN'DALE ROBINSON, WR/RB His 40 receptions for 443 yards were school records for a true freshman.

ADRIAN MARTINEZ, QB His 258.2 yards of total offense per game ranked third in the Big Ten and he accounted for 17 TDs.

DICAPRIO BOOTLE, DB Started every game the past two seasons, mostly at cornerback but also at safety late last season.

KEY LOSSES

MOHAMED BARRY, LB Led Nebraska in tackles (89) for a second consecutive season, the first Husker to do that since 2010-11.

LAMAR JACKSON, CB Jackson started 23 of 24 games over two seasons and had 40 tackles and three interceptions in 2019.

DARRION DANIELS, NT Graduate transfer from Oklahoma State stepped in as a leader and earned All-Big Ten honorable mention.

RISING STAR

ZAVIER BETTS could have an immediate impact at wide receiver. The only in-state scholarship recruit in the 2020 class was the second-highest-ranked player in the class. He caught 46 touchdown passes during his career at Bellevue West.

Prior to last season, Nebraska athletic director Bill Moos said that six wins and a bowl would be reasonable for coach Scott Frost's third team. The response from most was disbelief: Only six wins?

As it turned out, Moos was too optimistic. The Huskers failed to achieve bowl-eligibility for a third consecutive season. Part of the problem was the health of quarterback Adrian Martinez, who was coming off an outstanding freshman season. He missed two games because of a knee injury and then had offseason surgery on his non-throwing shoulder.

Martinez will have a veteran group around him, but depth is a concern on both sides of the ball. And if Nebraska is to be a factor in the Big Ten's West Division, it will have to happen with young players. Freshmen, redshirt freshmen and sophomores comprise 70 percent of the roster.

OFFENSE In addition to Martinez, 10 other players with five or more starts return, including the interior linemen and tight end Jack Stoll, all of whom started every game. The status of another player who started every game, wide receiver JD Spielman, is uncertain. Spielman went home to Minnesota before the start of spring practice "to do things he needs to do," Frost said at the time. Whether he would return in the fall was unclear.

Spielman led the Huskers in receiving, topping 800 yards (898) for a third season. His absence would add to uncertainty at wide receiver, easily the biggest concern on an offense that has a new coordinator/receivers coach in Matt Lubick, with whom Frost had coached at Oregon.

Wan'Dale Robinson, who started four games, lined up at running back as well as wide receiver. Like Spielman, he's fearless despite his size and took a physical pounding, missing two games as a result.

Kade Warner, also hampered by injury last season, is reliable, always in the right place.

With Lubick in charge, the offensive organization was "already better," Frost said during his spring news conference. Also, offensive line coach Greg Austin is more active in the running game — he now has the additional title of run-game coordinator.

The Huskers ranked 30th nationally in rushing last season and should be better behind a veteran line, which could see some adjustment to ensure depth. Matt Farniok, who has started every game at tackle the past two seasons, could move to guard if a redshirt freshman such as Bryce Benhart steps up in fall camp. The team's leading rusher, Dedrick Mills, went through a period of adjustment after transferring from junior college, but by season's end, he showed he was more than just an inside threat.

DEFENSE Though the defense improved statistically in coordinator Erik Chinander's second season, the Huskers still didn't get enough pressure on opposing quarterbacks. One step to address that was replacing outside linebackers coach Jovan Dewitt with Mike Dawson, the defensive line coach in Frost's first season who left for the New York Giants for a season.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Purdue
Sept.	12	Central Michigan
Sept.	19	South Dakota State
Sept.	26	Cincinnati
Oct.	3	at Northwestern
Oct.	10	Illinois
Oct.	24	at Rutgers
Oct.	31	at Ohio State
Nov.	7	Penn State
Nov.	14	at Iowa
Nov.	21	at Wisconsin
Nov.	27	Minnesota

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 5-7, 3-6 BIG TEN

Aug.	31	South Alabama	W	35-21
Sept.	7	at Colorado (ot)	L	31-34
Sept.	15	Northern Illinois	W	44-8
Sept.	22	at Illinois	W	42-38
Sept.	28	Ohio State	L	7-48
Oct.	5	Northwestern	W	13-10
Oct.	12	at Minnesota	L	7-34
Oct.	26	Indiana	L	31-38
Nov.	2	at Purdue	L	27-31
Nov.	16	Wisconsin	L	21-37
Nov.	23	at Maryland	W	54-7
Nov.	29	Iowa	L	24-27

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	B1G	NATIONAL
Scoring	28.0 ppg	7	72
Rushing	203.3 ypg	3	30
Passing	212.6 ypg	9	82
Total	415.8 ypg	5	55
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	27.8 ppg	11	66
Rushing	188.1 ypg	11	94
Passing	200.8 ypg	7	30
Total	388.8 ypg	10	64
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
0	0.00	7	61

2020 RECRUITS

1. Turner Corcoran, OT, Lawrence, KS
2. Zavier Betts, WR, Bellevue, NE
3. Keyshawn Greene, LB, Crawfordville, FL
4. Marcus Fleming, WR, Miami, FL
5. Henry Gray, S, Miami, FL
6. Omar Manning, WR, Lancaster, TX*
7. Jaiden Francois, S, Homestead, FL
8. Logan Smothers, QB, Muscle Shoals, AL
9. Sevion Morrison, RB, Tulsa, OK
10. Alante Brown, WR, Oakdale, CT
11. Blaise Gunnerson, DE, Carroll, IA
12. Nash Hutmacher, DT, Chamberlain, SD
13. Eteva Mauga-Clements, LB, Am. Samoa
14. Will Nixon, WR, Waco, TX
15. Marvin Scott III, RB, Port Orange, FL
16. Alex Conn, OT, Derby, KS
17. Jimari Butler, DE, Mobile, AL
18. Marquis Black, DT, McDonough, GA
19. Niko Cooper, DE, Memphis, TN*
20. Ronald Delancy III, CB, Miami, FL
21. Pheldarius Payne, DE, Suffolk, VA*
22. Jordon Riley, DE, Durham, NC*
23. Isaac Gifford, S, Lincoln, NE
24. Tamon Lynum, CB, Orlando, FL

*junior college transfers

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Nebraska Athletics

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	29.7	69
Defense	30.0	84
Margin	**-0.3**	**74**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	41.6%	71
Defense	41.6%	64
Margin	**0.0%**	**71**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.8	72
Defense	5.6	62
Margin	**+0.2**	**72**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.0	113
Defense	4.6	76
Margin	**-0.6**	**108**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-0.5	73
Actual	0	61
Margin	**+0.5**	**59**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

2.4%

Opponents attempted 364 passes against the Huskers in 2019, and only nine gained 30 yards or more. At 2.47 percent, Nebraska posted the lowest explosive passing percentage in the Big Ten and ranked No. 6 in FBS.

2.25

Nebraska ball carriers put the ball on the ground far too often in 2019. The Huskers averaged 2.25 fumbles per game last year, which was the highest rate in the nation. Overall, the Huskers fumbled 27 times across 867 offensive plays, an FBS-worst 3.11 percent of snaps.

0.417

Nebraska allowed five blocked kicks in 2019, which tied Buffalo and FAU for the most in the nation. As the only team of the three not to play in a bowl game, the Cornhuskers posted an FBS-worst 0.417 blocked kicks allowed per game.

As with the offense, depth is a concern. That's especially important given the tempo at which Frost wants the offense to play. A successful up-tempo offense will mean that the defense is on the field more. And if that's the case, more defensive players must be in the mix.

Four of the front five are new, with outside linebackers JoJo Domann and Caleb Tannor starting 11 games between them on one side. Four of Domann's starts came in a nickel alignment; he was primarily a safety his first three seasons — one of them an injury redshirt — but has added weight and muscle to play outside linebacker, where his pass-rushing ability is needed.

Defensive end Ben Stille has 14 starts over three seasons, including 11 as a sophomore.

A group of youngsters will be pushing for playing time on the outside, among them Garrett Nelson, who became more disciplined without losing his infectious enthusiasm. Youngsters also will figure at inside linebacker behind Collin Miller, a returning starter, and Will Honas, second on the team in tackles.

The secondary is a strength, with returning starters Marquel Dismuke, Dicaprio Bootle and versatile Cam Taylor-Britt, who started one game at outside linebacker in a nickel package, six at safety and three at cornerback. Bootle also started at both corner and safety, the latter to preserve a redshirt for Myles Farmer. There's talent here; it needs to be complemented by pressure up front.

SPECIALISTS Special teams probably cost the Huskers as many as four games last season, according to Frost. The unit is now overseen by Jonathan Rutledge, a special teams analyst, with all the coaches involved on-field. Kickers Barret Pickering and Matt Waldoch left with eligibility remaining, further clouding the picture.

FINAL ANALYSIS Six wins are probably a reasonable expectation for Frost's third team, despite greater optimism going into a spring that ended after two March practices due to the coronavirus pandemic. If the Huskers are to win enough to earn their first bowl bid since 2016, they'll have to start strong, since they face a back-loaded conference schedule. Nebraska's final five opponents all finished last season ranked in the AP top 15, and three of those games are on the road.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)

WR	87	Chris Hickman (Fr.)		Omar Manning (Jr.)
WR	1	Wan'Dale Robinson (So.)	3	Jamie Nance (Fr.)
WR	81	Kade Warner (Jr.)		Zavier Betts (Fr.)
LT	**76**	**Brenden Jaimes (Sr.)**	65	Christian Gaylord (Sr.)
LG	**71**	**Matt Farniok (Sr.)**	**75**	**Trent Hixson (Jr.)**
C	**51**	**Cameron Jurgens (So.)**	66	Hunter Miller (Jr.)
RG	**56**	**Boe Wilson (Sr.)**	68	Will Farniok (So.)
RT	54	Bryce Benhart (Fr.)	69	Brant Banks (Fr.)
TE	**86**	**Jack Stoll (Sr.)**	11	Austin Allen (Jr.)
QB	**2**	**Adrian Martinez (Jr.)**	7	Luke McCaffrey (Fr.)
RB	26	Dedrick Mills (Sr.)	14	Rahmir Johnson (Fr.)

DEFENSE (4)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	95	Ben Stille (Sr.)	98	Casey Rogers (So.)
DT	93	Damion Daniels (Jr.)		Jordon Riley (Jr.)
DE	97	Deontre Thomas (Jr.)		Pheldarius Payne (Jr.)
OLB	13	JoJo Domann (Sr.)	10	Jackson Hannah (Fr.)
MLB	3	Will Honas (Sr.)	42	Nick Henrich (Fr.)
MLB	**31**	**Collin Miller (Sr.)**	28	Luke Reimer (So.)
OLB	2	Caleb Tannor (Jr.)	44	Garrett Nelson (So.)
CB	**5**	**Cam Taylor-Britt (Jr.)**	17	Braxton Clark (So.)
CB	**7**	**Dicaprio Bootle (Sr.)**	6	Quinton Newsome (So.)
SS	8	Deontai Williams (Sr.)	26	Noa Pola-Gates (Fr.)
FS	**9**	**Marquel Dismuke (Sr.)**	18	Myles Farmer (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	48	Lane McCallum (Jr.)	**KR**	1	Wan'Dale Robinson (So.)
P	99	William Przystup (So.)	**PR**	3	Jamie Nance (Fr.)x

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Adrian Martinez	251	149	1,956	10	9
Noah Vedral	52	34	418	0	0
Luke McCaffrey	12	9	142	2	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Dedrick Mills	143	745	5.2	10
Adrian Martinez	144	626	4.3	7
Wan'Dale Robinson	88	340	3.9	3
Maurice Washington	50	298	6.0	1
Luke McCaffrey	24	166	6.9	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
JD Spielman	49	898	18.3	5
Wan'Dale Robinson	40	453	11.3	2
Jack Stoll	25	234	9.4	1
Kanawai Noa	17	245	14.4	2
Dedrick Mills	15	123	8.2	0

KICKING: Matt Waldoch, 4-4 FGs, 21 pts.
TACKLES: Mohamed Barry, 89; 3 players with 67
SACKS: Khalil Davis, 8.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Lamar Jackson, 3; **Cam Taylor-Britt, 2**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE CORNHUSKERS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP NEBRASKA

"It turns out it's harder to fix this program than everyone in the media thinks. Going in last year everyone was hyping them up to blow through the West and try to win the league. I'll give (Scott) Frost credit, I think he knew they weren't even close. I think the staff did everything they could to dial all of that down. ... (Adrian) Martinez getting banged up early set the tone. To be blunt, he was a better player in 2018. That's most likely because of the injury. They have to improve around him. They need better receivers for what they want to do, but the offense has a lot coming back. It's on Martinez to get back to that level. ... (Matt) Lubick will be interesting to watch, he knows Frost really well and knows how to speak that language. ... Defensively they did a whole lot, and maybe it's not the right play for them right now. They're giving up a lot of points, to where you think they're gonna go simplify things and see if that works. The 3-4 might help them, but they have to replace the entire front. ... I think the lesson here is that you have to really pay attention to head coaches, to the point where you're reading between the lines. He's never said this was going to be a quick fix. Nobody but that staff knows what they walked into. It's becoming obvious it was probably worse than we knew."

NORTHWESTERN Wildcats

National Forecast: **59** · Big Ten West Prediction: **6** · Projected Record: **5-7, 2-7 Big Ten**

Blake Gallagher

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Pat Fitzgerald
Record at School: 99-79 (14 years)
Career Record: 99-79 (14 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Bajakian
Defensive Coordinator: Mike Hankwitz
Location: Evanston, IL
Stadium: Ryan Field (47,130)

KEY WILDCATS

PADDY FISHER, LB Has averaged 106 tackles per year with at least five tackles for a loss and at least one forced fumble in all three seasons.

RASHAWN SLATER, OT Northwestern's most pro-ready offensive lineman in years has started all but two games in his career.

BLAKE GALLAGHER, LB Recorded interceptions in three consecutive games to lead Northwestern in picks.

KEY LOSSES

JOE GAZIANO, DE Three-time All-Big Ten selection finished as Northwestern's career sacks leader (30), while posting 48.5 tackles for a loss and 10 forced fumbles.

ALEX MILLER, DT Productive interior lineman shined in his only season as a starter.

JARED THOMAS, C Started every game at center in his final two seasons, serving as a captain in 2019 as the line made noticeable gains.

RISING STAR

COCO AZEMA showed dynamic speed as an emergency running back in the 2019 finale, rushing for 123 yards on seven carries at Illinois. The redshirt freshman's focus will be defense as a hard-charging safety, although he clearly can help Northwestern on both sides of the ball.

After Northwestern defeated Illinois to complete a miserable 3–9 season, coach Pat Fitzgerald wasn't subtle. "This is never happening again," he told players in the locker room. Northwestern is determined to show that 2019, the worst season in Fitzgerald's 14-year tenure, is an outlier and not a harbinger of an extended downturn.

Northwestern needs a jolt on offense and hired veteran play-caller Mike Bajakian to provide one. Bajakian takes over a unit that last year ranked 126th in scoring (16.3 ppg), 128th in passing TDs (six), and last in yards per pass attempt (4.5).

The internal belief is that if Northwestern gets moderate upgrades at quarterback, the team should be back in the Big Ten West race. The defense held up decently last season, and most of the back seven returns. If recent recruiting gains pay off with the overdue changes on offense, Northwestern could approach its typical output under Fitzgerald (7.1 wins per season).

OFFENSE Bajakian's arrival is seismic, as Fitzgerald had retained the same coordinator (Mick McCall) since 2008. The offense bottoming out forced a change, but the unit hadn't been lighting it up. From 2015 to 2018, Northwestern ranked 106th nationally in scoring (24.7 ppg) and 110th in plays of 20 yards or longer (203), despite ranking 24th in win percentage (.679).

In Bajakian, Fitzgerald gets a play-caller who embraces complementary football and the run game, but also knows offenses need big plays to succeed. Bajakian takes over a quarterback room that fell apart in 2019 but could improve. The big reason: Peyton Ramsey, a graduate transfer from Indiana who started 23 games and passed for 5,329 yards the last two seasons. Ramsey is a proven Big Ten starter who should stabilize the position. Northwestern also regains veteran reserve TJ Green, who broke his foot in the 2019 opener and likely would have started all season. Hunter Johnson, the heralded Clemson transfer who struggled mightily in 2019, gets a clean slate with no expectations, and junior Andrew Marty also returns.

Northwestern also must get more from its receivers. Senior Riley Lees (91 career receptions) leads the group, but Bajakian must identify other options, especially potential deep threats. Junior Berkeley Holman averaged nearly 14 yards per catch in limited work last season, while senior Ramaud Chiaokhiao-Bowman should see more targets. Bajakian will feature tight ends, but Northwestern needs playmakers to emerge after the group generated only seven receptions for 30 yards last fall.

The run remains Northwestern's strength, especially with Isaiah Bowser (91.9 ypg in Big Ten play in 2018) healthy after logging only 59 carries last season. Sophomore Drake Anderson is a solid second option, and Kyric McGowan's explosive speed could lead to an enhanced role. The offense's overall ineptitude obscured an uptick in line play under assistant Kurt Anderson, who returns four starters, including NFL prospect Rashawn Slater, and welcomes the program's top recruit in Peter Skoronski.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at Michigan State
Sept.	12	Tulane
Sept.	19	Central Michigan
Sept.	26	at Penn State
Oct.	3	Nebraska
Oct.	17	Maryland
Oct.	24	at Iowa
Oct.	31	at Purdue
Nov.	7	vs. Wisconsin #
Nov.	14	Morgan State
Nov.	21	at Minnesota
Nov.	28	Illinois

#Chicago

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 3-9, 1-8 BIG TEN

Aug.	31	at Stanford	L	7-17
Sept.	14	UNLV	W	30-14
Sept.	21	Michigan State	L	10-31
Sept.	28	at Wisconsin	L	15-24
Oct.	5	at Nebraska	L	10-13
Oct.	18	Ohio State	L	3-52
Oct.	26	Iowa	L	0-20
Nov.	2	at Indiana	L	3-34
Nov.	9	Purdue	L	22-24
Nov.	16	Massachusetts	W	45-6
Nov.	23	Minnesota	L	22-38
Nov.	30	at Illinois	W	29-10

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	B1G	NATIONAL
Scoring	16.3 ppg	13	126
Rushing	180.1 ypg	5	44
Passing	117.0 ypg	14	126
Total	297.1 ypg	13	124
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	23.6 ppg	8	43
Rushing	136.9 ypg	8	36
Passing	198.8 ypg	6	23
Total	335.7 ypg	7	25
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
-10	-0.83	13	121

2020 RECRUITS

1. Peter Skoronski, C, Park Ridge, IL
2. Josh Priebe, OG, Edwardsburg, MI
3. Cullen Coleman, LB, Rye, NY
4. Cam Porter, RB, Cincinnati, OH
5. Jordan Butler, DT, Las Vegas, NV
6. Garnett Hollis Jr., CB, Franklin, TN
7. Gunner Maldonado, S, Chandler, AZ
8. Sean McLaughlin, DE, Frankfort, IL
9. Xander Mueller, LB, Wheaton, IL
10. Te-Rah Edwards, OG, Groveport, OH
11. Jaheem Joseph, CB, Opa Locka, FL
12. Ben Wrather, OG, Powell, OH
13. Carl Richardson, QB, Salinas, CA
14. Hunter Welcing, TE, Lake Zurich, IL
15. Marshall Lang, TE, Cincinnati, OH
16. Jaiden Cameron, DE, Clayton, OH
17. Nigel Williams, CB, Richmond, VA

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Peter Brouillet

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	28.4	94
Defense	32.6	120
Margin	**-4.2**	**117**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	34.5%	126
Defense	38.8%	35
Margin	**-4.3%**	**98**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	4.2	128
Defense	5.1	27
Margin	**-0.9**	**109**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	3.9	117
Defense	4.3	39
Margin	**-0.4**	**94**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-3.9	96
Actual	-10	118
Margin	**-6.1**	**115**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

3.7

The Wildcats averaged 4.5 yards per pass attempt by traditional college football measures. However, if lost yardage due to sacks is instead subtracted from passing yards, Northwestern averaged just 3.7 yards per pass play.

1.28%

The Wildcats consistently failed to make big plays in the passing game. In fact, only four of Northwestern's 312 pass attempts resulted in completions of 30 yards or more last season — a rate of 1.28 percent that was the worst in the country.

2.5%

Opponents attempted 360 passes against the Wildcats last season, and only nine were completed for gains of 30 yards or more. At 2.5 percent, Northwestern posted the second-lowest explosive pass rate in the Big Ten and ranked No. 7 in the country.

DEFENSE The team's signature unit should thrive under 72-year-old Mike Hankwitz, back for a 13th season as coordinator after some minor arm-twisting. Since 2015, Northwestern ranks 18th nationally in defensive efficiency and 17th in total touchdowns allowed.

The Wildcats return a seasoned linebacker group, headlined by Paddy Fisher, a three-year starter and two-time All-Big Ten selection who has 315 career tackles and nine forced fumbles. Fisher last season played second fiddle to Blake Gallagher, who led Northwestern in tackles (91) and interceptions (three). Fellow senior Chris Bergin enters his second year as a starter.

Northwestern's secondary also should be a strength, especially if cornerback Greg Newsome II stays healthy. Senior safeties Travis Whillock and JR Pace both have received All-Big Ten recognition, and cornerback Cameron Ruiz shows playmaking promise. Continued development from young players like safety Bryce Jackson and cornerback A.J. Hampton will be key.

The defensive line has the most to replace but also the strongest history of reloading. If Earnest Brown IV stays healthy, he should help fill the pass-rushing void left by Joe Gaziano, Northwestern's all-time sacks leader. Other linemen like Eku Leota and Jason Gold Jr. step into bigger roles to complement Samdup Miller, a three-year starter at end, and veteran tackles Jake Saunders and Trevor Kent.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Charlie Kuhbander is back for his fourth year, trying to capture the form of his first, when he made 13 field goals. Northwestern has found a new punter in Kent State graduate transfer Derek Adams. Lees leads a return game that finished in the middle of the league in 2019, and he will likely get help from McGowan and others.

FINAL ANALYSIS Northwestern needed a new voice on offense and likely a new quarterback, too. In Bajakian and Ramsey, it adds two proven pieces who could help restore bowl eligibility. Northwestern needs a senior-laden defense to lead the way, and to get better luck on the health front. The Wildcats also must navigate a tricky start: Michigan State (road), Tulane (home), Central Michigan (home), Penn State (road).

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**19**	**Riley Lees (Sr.)**	14	Malik Washington (So.)
WR	**81**	**R. Chiaokhiao-Bowman (Sr.)**	4	Berkeley Holman (Jr.)
WR	**8**	**Kyric McGowan (Sr.)**	3	JJ Jefferson (Jr.)
LT	**70**	**Rashawn Slater (Sr.)**	76	Ethan Wiederkehr (Jr.)
LG	**52**	**Sam Gerak (Jr.)**	68	Josh Priebe (Fr.)
C	69	Charlie Schmidt (So.)	56	Sam Stovall (So.)
RG	**66**	**Nik Urban (Sr.)**		Peter Skoronski (Fr.)
RT	**73**	**Gunnar Vogel (Sr.)**	74	Payne He'Bert (So.)
TE		John Raine (Sr.)	80	Trey Pugh (Jr.)
QB	12	Peyton Ramsey (Sr.)	10	TJ Green (Sr.)
RB	25	Isaiah Bowser (Jr.)	6	Drake Anderson (So.)

DEFENSE (9)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**91**	**Samdup Miller (Sr.)**	55	Eku Leota (So.)
DT	**90**	**Jake Saunders (Sr.)**	93	Joe Spivak (Sr.)
DT	96	Trevor Kent (Jr.)	94	Jason Gold Jr. (So.)
DE	99	Earnest Brown IV (Sr.)	49	Adetomiwa Adebawore (So.)
OLB	**51**	**Blake Gallagher (Sr.)**	40	Peter McIntyre (Jr.)
MLB	**42**	**Paddy Fisher (Sr.)**	35	Erik Mueller (Sr.)
OLB	**28**	**Chris Bergin (Sr.)**	31	Jaylen Rivers (So.)
CB	**2**	**Greg Newsome II (Jr.)**	21	Cameron Mitchell (Fr.)
CB	**18**	**Cameron Ruiz (Jr.)**	11	A.J. Hampton (So.)
S	**13**	**JR Pace (Sr.)**	22	Bryce Jackson (Jr.)
S	**7**	**Travis Whillock (Sr.)**	27	Coco Azema (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	14	Charlie Kuhbander (Sr.)	**KR**	8	Kyric McGowan (Sr.)
P		Derek Adams (Sr.)	**PR**	19	Riley Lees (Sr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Aidan Smith	171	86	760	3	9
Hunter Johnson	108	50	432	1	4
Andrew Marty	22	14	150	2	2

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Drake Anderson	154	634	4.1	3
Evan Hull	46	286	6.2	4
Aidan Smith	72	211	2.9	1
Isaiah Bowser	59	204	3.5	0
Andrew Marty	52	201	3.9	4

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Riley Lees	51	430	8.4	2
R. Chiaokhiao-Bowman	17	188	11.1	0
Kyric McGowan	13	102	7.8	0
JJ Jefferson	12	155	12.9	2
Bennett Skowronek	12	141	11.8	0

KICKING: **Charlie Kuhbander, 10-14 FGs, 47 pts.**
TACKLES: **Blake Gallagher, 91; Paddy Fisher, 89**
SACKS: Joe Gaziano, 9.0
INTERCEPTIONS: **Blake Gallagher, 3**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE WILDCATS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP NORTHWESTERN

"Last year was a worst-case scenario for them. You can assume it was a one-year problem. ... Obviously it all started on offense. They went through a new quarterback every week it felt like. Moving on from (Mick) McCall is a really big deal for them. They've had more staff consistency than anyone in the entire sport. (Mike) Bajakian got the most out of Boston College a lot of the years he was there, and he can adapt this personnel group. Bajakian is going to put them under center, more pro set. ... Defensively, this was the same Northwestern team. They're tough to score on, they're really smart with coverages, they fit well, they make you work for it. That's the good news. Nothing really changed on defense. (Paddy) Fisher is their leader, and they have a good nucleus. ... They haven't changed anything in recruiting. It's actually better than it ever has been. They're still a model for how to fit the most talent into their program. The facility really helped them. They have an energy level to their brand just like any other Big Ten program. So that's another reason we think they're going to bounce right back. ... They need to find a quarterback in camp and let him rep with the 1's. Just starting a single quarterback would go a long way to getting them back winning. This isn't a broken program."

PURDUE Boilermakers

National Forecast: **49** · Big Ten West Prediction: **5** · Projected Record: **6-6, 3-6 Big Ten**

Rondale Moore

Purdue head coach Jeff Brohm remains one of the brightest offensive minds in college football. Yet the Boilermakers took a step back in 2019 because of a string of devastating injuries to key players and a porous defense that ranked near the bottom of the Big Ten in most statistical categories.

In his fourth year, Brohm is eager to show that last year's 4–8 campaign was an aberration. Overall, Purdue has gone 6–12 since its 2018 upset of No. 2 Ohio State, the high point of the Brohm era in West Lafayette.

There is reason for optimism, as several underclassmen stepped into prominent roles last season due to injuries and gained valuable experience. Those players will need to continue to develop for Purdue to make progress in an improving Big Ten West.

OFFENSE Sophomore receiver David Bell is back after a stellar freshman season in which he had 100 or more receiving yards in six of Purdue's final nine games. Bell scored eight TDs (seven receiving, one rushing) in his debut season. If fleet redshirt sophomore receiver Rondale Moore (1,645 career receiving yards, 14 TDs) can return to full speed after a season-ending leg injury last season, Purdue could end up with the most dynamic receiving tandem in the Big Ten.

The question remains: Who will throw them the football? Purdue kept its quarterback competition open this spring, with sophomore Jack Plummer and junior Aidan O'Connell both getting first-team reps. Both will battle this fall with UCLA grad transfer Austin Burton, who made one start for the Bruins last season and completed 44-of-64 passes for 365 yards and a TD. Plummer (1,603 yards, 11 TDs, eight interceptions) started six games as a redshirt freshman after Elijah Sindelar went down with a broken collarbone last season. O'Connell (1,101 yards, eight TDs, four interceptions) then started Purdue's last three games when Plummer went down with a broken ankle. Plummer is more mobile, but his decision-making caused him to get benched against Illinois last season.

Purdue would benefit greatly from an improved run game after finishing last in the Big Ten in rushing yards (83.3 ypg) and yards per carry (2.9). The Boilermakers return their top two running backs from last season, sophomore King Doerue (451 yards, five TDs) and junior Zander Horvath (377 yards, two TDs) but need improved push up front to open holes for both backs. Left tackle Grant Hermanns is the best of three starters back from a line that needs to run block better to create more balance.

DEFENSE New coordinator Bob Diaco, hired from Louisiana Tech, is tasked to fix a Purdue defense that ranked next to last in the Big Ten in total defense (436.3 yards per game) and 12th against the run (192.5 yards per game). Diaco experimented with multiple 3-4 and 4-3 fronts during the first two weeks of spring drills before practices were canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Eventually, Diaco would prefer to run a 3-4 defense, but that could depend on the health and depth of the defensive line and linebacker groups.

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Jeff Brohm
Record at School: 17-21 (3 years)
Career Record: 47-31 (6 years)
Offensive Coordinators: Brian Brohm, JaMarcus Shephard
Defensive Coordinators: Bob Diaco, Anthony Poindexter
Location: West Lafayette, IN
Stadium: Ross-Ade Stadium (57,282)

KEY BOILERMAKERS

DAVID BELL, WR Big Ten Freshman of the Year had a conference-best 86 catches for 1,035 yards and seven TDs.

RONDALE MOORE, WR Big Ten Freshman of the Year in 2018 suffered a season-ending hamstring injury last September.

GEORGE KARLAFTIS, DE Had a stellar freshman campaign with 7.5 sacks, 17 tackles for a loss, two fumble recoveries and an interception.

KEY LOSSES

ELIJAH SINDELAR, QB Passed for 978 yards and nine TDs in three games before his season was cut short with a broken collarbone.

MARKUS BAILEY, LB Before a torn ACL in September, he was the unquestioned leader of Purdue's defense with 324 career tackles.

BRYCEN HOPKINS, TE A Mackey Award finalist, Hopkins was one of the top pass-catching tight ends in college football in 2019.

RISING STAR

Incoming freshman wide receiver **MALIQ CARR** (6'5", 225) enrolled in January to get a jump on the 2020 season. A football/basketball standout from Oak Park, Mich., Carr is a big target who could evolve into a pass-catching tight end, giving Brohm another vertical threat to work with.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at Nebraska
Sept.	12	Memphis
Sept.	19	Air Force
Sept.	26	at Boston College
Oct.	10	Rutgers
Oct.	17	at Illinois
Oct.	24	at Michigan
Oct.	31	Northwestern
Nov.	7	at Minnesota
Nov.	14	Wisconsin
Nov.	21	Iowa
Nov.	28	at Indiana

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 4-8, 3-6 BIG TEN

Aug.	30	at Nevada	L	31-34
Sept.	7	Vanderbilt	W	42-24
Sept.	14	TCU	L	13-34
Sept.	28	Minnesota	L	31-38
Oct.	5	at Penn State	L	7-35
Oct.	12	Maryland	W	40-14
Oct.	19	at Iowa	L	20-26
Oct.	26	Illinois	L	6-24
Nov.	2	Nebraska	W	31-27
Nov.	9	at Northwestern	W	24-22
Nov.	23	at Wisconsin	L	24-45
Nov.	30	Indiana	L	41-44

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	B1G	NATIONAL
Scoring	25.8 ppg	9	87
Rushing	83.3 ypg	14	126
Passing	309.9 ypg	1	12
Total	393.2 ypg	8	75
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	30.6 ppg	12	86
Rushing	192.5 ypg	12	99
Passing	243.8 ypg	12	94
Total	436.3 ypg	13	100
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
-8	-0.67	12	113

2020 RECRUITS

1. Maliq Carr, WR, Oak Park, MI
2. Michael Alaimo, QB, Montvale, NJ
3. Tirek Murphy, RB, Middle Village, NY
4. Abdur-Rahmaan Yaseen, WR, Walled Lake, MI
5. Gus Hartwig, C, Zionsville, IN
6. Collin Sullivan, WR, Round Rock, TX
7. Greg Hudgins III, DE, Washington, DC
8. Bryce Austin, DT, Southfield, MI
9. Antonio Stevens, S, Franklin, TN
10. Geovonte' Howard, CB, Missouri City, TX*
11. Ben Kreul, LB, Waukesha, WI
12. Marcellus Moore, RB, Plainfield, IL
13. Jared Byczynski, OG, Cleveland, OH
14. Anthony Romphf, ATH, Southfield, MI
15. Sanoussi Kane, S, Blairstown, NJ
16. Kydran Jenkins, LB, Louisville, GA
17. DaMarcus Mitchell, LB, Thibodaux, LA*
18. Josh Kaltenberger, C, Harmony, PA
19. Nalin Fox, OT, Pontiac, MI
20. Ryan Brandt, LB, Angola, IN
21. Clyde Washington, LB, Medford, NJ

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Donald Page

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	26.3	126
Defense	32.9	122
Margin	**-6.6**	**126**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	40.3%	90
Defense	43.6%	84
Margin	**-3.3%**	**95**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.5	91
Defense	6.0	91
Margin	**-0.5**	**98**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.9	32
Defense	4.4	61
Margin	**+0.5**	**41**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-6.8	119
Actual	-8	110
Margin	**-1.2**	**78**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

95.12%

When Purdue made it into the red zone last season, it usually came away with points. The Boilermakers turned 41 red zone trips into 29 touchdowns and 10 field goals last season, a 95.12 percent scoring rate that ranked second in the Big Ten and No. 5 in FBS.

37.7

Purdue was penalized for an average of 37.7 yards per game in 2019, which was the second-lowest figure in the Big Ten and No. 7 in the country.

6.73%

The Purdue offense ran 862 plays in 2019. The Boilermakers gained 10 yards or more on 37 rushing attempts and surpassed 30 yards or more 21 times through the air. With just 58 explosive plays all season, Purdue posted a 6.73 percent explosive play rate that ranked second lowest in the Big Ten and tied for No. 126 nationally.

Sophomore defensive end George Karlaftis is an emerging star, a Freshman All-American who posted 7.5 sacks last season. Karlaftis proved to be both durable and reliable in starting all 12 games for the Boilermakers. The return of fifth-year senior defensive tackle Lorenzo Neal, who sat out the entire 2019 season recovering from knee surgery, should also help up front. The 6'3", 315-pound Neal is the inside run stuffer that Purdue's defense sorely lacked last season.

There are more questions at linebacker, although there is hope that junior college transfer DaMarcus Mitchell could make an immediate impact as an edge rusher. Senior Derrick Barnes is moving back from defensive line to inside linebacker this season to help address some of Purdue's issues stopping the run.

In the secondary, sophomore cornerback Cory Trice displayed big-play ability in coverage last season with three interceptions, including one returned 37 yards for a TD. At 6'3" and 215 pounds, Trice has the strength and size to match up with bigger receivers. Trice will be flanked by junior cornerback Dedrick Mackey, who also picked off three passes last season. Sophomore Cam Allen, senior Simeon Smiley, senior Brennan Thieneman and graduate transfer Tyler Coyle will rotate at the safety spots. Coyle led UConn in tackles in each of the last two seasons and will bring physicality to the back end of the defense.

SPECIALISTS J.D. Dellinger is back after making 13-of-16 field-goal attempts last season, including a career-long 53-yarder against TCU. Brooks Cormier and Zac Collins will battle for the punting job in camp. Cormier has the stronger leg but was inconsistent last season as a freshman. New special teams coach Marty Biagi wants to get more out of the return game, but that will depend on the health of Moore, who returned punts and kicks before going down last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS Brohm is stockpiling talent, but it remains either young or coming off injury. Losing spring practice time obviously doesn't help matters. If Diaco can get the defense to improve and key players can avoid season-ending injuries, Purdue could move up the Big Ten West standings this season and return to bowl eligibility after a one-year hiatus.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**3**	**David Bell (So.)**	1	Milton Wright (So.)
WR	**4**	**Rondale Moore (So.)**	12	Jared Sparks (Sr.)
WR	**10**	**Amad Anderson Jr. (So.)**	33	Jackson Anthrop (Sr.)
LT	**78**	**Grant Hermanns (Sr.)**	**70**	**Will Bramel (So.)**
LG	68	Cam Craig (Fr.)	77	DJ Washington (Jr.)
C	**72**	**Sam Garvin (Jr.)**	56	Viktor Beach (Jr.)
RG	**76**	**Mark Stickford (Jr.)**	73	Kyle Jornigan (Fr.)
RT	74	Eric Miller (So.)	70	Will Bramel (So.)
TE	87	Payne Durham (So.)	48	Kyle Bilodeau (Fr.)
QB	13	Jack Plummer (So.)	16	Aidan O'Connell (Jr.)
RB	**22**	**King Doerue (So.)**	40	Zander Horvath (Jr.)

DEFENSE (7)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**5**	**George Karlaftis (So.)**	58	Branson Deen (So.)
NT	9	Lorenzo Neal (Sr.)	**90**	**Lawrence Johnson (So.)**
DT	8	Anthony Watts (Sr.)	99	Jack Sullivan (So.)
OLB	**6**	**Jalen Graham (So.)**	12	Dontay Hunter II (Fr.)
MLB	**55**	**Derrick Barnes (Sr.)**	97	Semisi Fakasiieiki (Sr.)
MLB	**36**	**Jaylan Alexander (Jr.)**	37	Jacob Wahlberg (Fr.)
OLB	15	DaMarcus Mitchell (Jr.)	81	Khali Saunders (Fr.)
CB	23	Cory Trice (So.)	7	Jordan Rucker (Jr.)
CB	**1**	**Dedrick Mackey (Jr.)**	27	Anthony Romphf (Fr.)
SS	29	Simeon Smiley (Sr.)		Tyler Coyle (Sr.)
FS	10	Cam Allen (So.)	**38**	**Brennan Thieneman (Sr.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	85	J.D. Dellinger (Sr.)	**KR**	4	Rondale Moore (So.)
P	19	Brooks Cormier (So.)	**PR**	4	Rondale Moore (So.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jack Plummer	241	144	1,603	11	8
Aidan O'Connell	164	103	1,101	8	4
Elijah Sindelar	112	72	978	9	3

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
King Doerue	130	451	3.5	5
Zander Horvath	79	377	4.8	2
Jack Plummer	62	56	0.9	0
Jackson Anthrop	12	48	4.0	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
David Bell	86	1,035	12.0	7
Brycen Hopkins	61	830	13.6	7
Jackson Anthrop	37	340	9.2	1
Amad Anderson Jr.	31	343	11.1	3
Rondale Moore	29	387	13.3	2

KICKING: **J.D. Dellinger, 13-16 FGs, 74 pts**
TACKLES: Ben Holt, 114; **Derrick Barnes, 63**
SACKS: **Derrick Barnes, 7.5; George Karlaftis, 7.5**
INTERCEPTIONS: **Dedrick Mackey, 3; Cory Trice, 3**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE BOILERMAKERS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP PURDUE

"They could be a surprise team coming off of last year. No one is really paying attention to them, and most of the problems they had last year seemed temporary and not a system failure. ... They were decimated by injuries last year. They lost their best receiver and their quarterback on the same play for the entire season. I'm not sure I've ever seen that happen before. When that happens you have to basically hit reset, especially for (Jeff) Brohm's offense. They were built on throwing the ball to guys like (Rondale) Moore. The other problem is that they had success early with Jeff, but that roster was junk. They used a ton of freshmen and young guys last year, and they're still pretty young. ... They have the talent at the skill positions, and they have experience at quarterback. David Bell coming on strong gives them a lot to play with if Moore is healthy. ... They really need to run the ball better, and that's not a position where they had a standout guy. ... Bob Diaco is an interesting choice. He knows the league, but are they going to a 4-2-5 base? How does that fit with their personnel? They were awful on run defense. They have some guys back up front, but no one that blows you away. ... A little bit of reality set in on these guys last year, but Brohm has a lot of respect in this league."

WISCONSIN Badgers

National Forecast: **12** · Big Ten West Prediction: **1** · Projected Record: **9-4, 7-2 Big Ten**

Cole Van Lanen

Wisconsin won 10 games last season and returned to the Rose Bowl for the first time in seven years, offering proof that the Badgers' 8–5 mark the previous season was a blip and not a sign of regression.

But repeating as Big Ten West champs in 2020 will be a challenge because the Badgers have to replace their five best players: Three underclassmen on offense left early for the NFL, while a pair of outstanding seniors are gone on the other side of the ball.

Head coach Paul Chryst and his staff have put together some solid recruiting classes, but a program that prides itself on development will be put to the test in that area. "It's a good group," Chryst says. "But guys have to emerge if we're going to be [special]."

OFFENSE Gone are Chryst's two best playmakers and the anchor of his offensive line. That said, the No. 1 talking point among the fan base continues to be the quarterback position. Incumbent Jack Coan completed 69.6 percent percent of his passes for 2,727 yards with 18 touchdowns and five interceptions in his first full season as the starter. It was, by all accounts, a solid junior campaign for Coan after he easily claimed the job in the preseason. But Graham Mertz is arguably the most talented quarterback on the roster, and after getting some reps during his redshirt season, he could be ready to push Coan for playing time in 2020.

It'll likely take a committee to fill the shoes of tailback Jonathan Taylor, who produced 2,255 total yards and 26 touchdowns in 346 touches to cap off an outstanding three-year run with the Badgers. Garrett Groshek has mainly been used as a third-down back but could see his role increase, while Nakia Watson needs to make a jump after showing inconsistency in his first season on the field. Two young players who could make an impact are Isaac Guerendo and Jalen Berger, a four-star commit out of New Jersey.

There's no obvious go-to player in the receiving corps, either. Tight end Jake Ferguson, who has 69 catches over his first two seasons, has star potential and should see his production jump. Wideouts Danny Davis III and Kendric Pryor served as complementary pieces to Quintez Cephus last season and are solid, but the Badgers need to develop some quality depth behind them. A.J. Abbott and Stephan Bracey are breakout candidates at that position.

As always, the Badgers' success on offense will be determined by the offensive line. It's a group with a lot of moving parts. Center Tyler Biadasz's early departure for the NFL leaves left tackle Cole Van Lanen as the star of that group. Logan Bruss has spent most of his time at right tackle but likely will shift inside to guard, opening a spot for Tyler Beach. The big question is who will replace Biadasz, a three-year starter at center. Kayden Lyles and Cormac Sampson, who split time at tight end last season, are in the running for that role. So is Joe Tippmann, a redshirt freshman who is loaded with potential.

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Paul Chryst
Record at School: 52-16 (5 years)
Career Record: 71-35 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Joe Rudolph
Defensive Coordinator: Jim Leonhard
Location: Madison, WI
Stadium: Camp Randall Stadium (80,321)

KEY BADGERS

JAKE FERGUSON, TE Made significant strides as a blocker and carried a heavy rep load due to injuries at his position.

COLE VAN LANEN, OL Earned second-team All-Big Ten honors from Pro Football Focus in 2019, his first season as a starter.

JACK SANBORN, LB Led the Badgers with 80 tackles, including nine for a loss, and shared the team lead with three interceptions.

KEY LOSSES

JONATHAN TAYLOR, RB Piled up 6,174 rushing yards and 55 touchdowns during his three seasons in Madison.

QUINTEZ CEPHUS, WR His 901 receiving yards were the most by a Wisconsin player since Alex Erickson had 978 in 2015.

ZACK BAUN, OLB Saved his best for last, producing 19.5 tackles for a loss and 12.5 sacks as a fifth-year senior.

RISING STAR

Finding **ISAAC GUERENDO**'s true position has been a challenge, but he's landed back at running back after spending some time at wide receiver. Guerendo showed off his explosiveness while taking a reverse on a kickoff 49 yards against Minnesota in the regular-season finale.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	Indiana
Sept.	12	Southern Illinois
Sept.	19	Appalachian State
Sept.	26	at Michigan
Oct.	3	vs. Notre Dame #
Oct.	10	Minnesota
Oct.	24	at Maryland
Oct.	31	Illinois
Nov.	7	vs. Northwestern %
Nov.	14	at Purdue
Nov.	21	Nebraska
Nov.	28	at Iowa

#Green Bay, WI %Chicago

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 10-4, 7-2 BIG TEN

Aug.	30	at USF	W	49-0
Sept.	7	Central Michigan	W	61-0
Sept.	21	Michigan	W	35-14
Sept.	28	Northwestern	W	24-15
Oct.	5	Kent State	W	48-0
Oct.	12	Michigan State	W	38-0
Oct.	19	at Illinois	L	23-24
Oct.	26	at Ohio State	L	7-38
Nov.	9	Iowa	W	24-22
Nov.	16	at Nebraska	W	37-21
Nov.	23	Purdue	W	45-24
Nov.	30	at Minnesota	W	38-17
Dec.	7	vs. Ohio State #	L	21-34
Jan.	1	vs. Oregon %	L	27-28

#Indianapolis %Rose Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	B1G	NATIONAL
Scoring	34.1 ppg	4	23
Rushing	233.1 ypg	2	15
Passing	200.1 ypg	10	96
Total	433.2 ypg	2	38
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	16.9 ppg	4	10
Rushing	99.8 ypg	2	6
Passing	187.4 ypg	4	12
Total	287.1 ypg	2	4
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**B1G**	**NATIONAL**
0	0.00	7	61

2020 RECRUITS

1. Trey Wedig, OT, Wales, WI
2. Jack Nelson, OT, Stoughton, WI
3. Jalen Berger, RB, Ramsey, NJ
4. Nick Herbig, LB, Honolulu, HI
5. Kaden Johnson, LB, Minneapolis, MN
6. Cole Dakovich, LB, Waukesha, WI
7. Chimere Dike, WR, Waukesha, WI
8. Malik Reed, LB, Chandler, AZ
9. Jordan Turner, LB, Farmington, MI
10. Aaron Witt, DE, Winona, MN
11. Cam Large, TE, Dedham, MA
12. Dylan Barrett, OG, Saint Charles, IL
13. Ben Barten, OT, Stratford, WI
14. Tanor Bortolini, OG, Kewaunee, WI
15. Max Lofy, CB, Colorado Springs, CO
16. Isaac Smith, WR, Collierville, TN
17. James Thompson Jr., DE, Cincinnati, OH
18. Preston Zachman, LB, Catawissa, PA
19. Cade McDonald, DE, Hudson, WI
20. Devin Chandler, WR, Cornelius, NC

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Peter Brouillet

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	30.8	45
Defense	27.9	31
Margin	**+2.9**	**31**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	49.0%	12
Defense	35.3%	9
Margin	**+13.7%**	**5**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.3	30
Defense	4.8	13
Margin	**+1.5**	**13**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	5.2	16
Defense	3.8	14
Margin	**+1.4**	**9**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	8.1	13
Actual	0	61
Margin	**-8.1**	**121**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

35:37

The Badgers possessed the football for an average of 35:37 per contest, which was the most in the country by more than a full minute. The Badgers ran one offensive play every 28.89 seconds of game time last season, the slowest mark in the Big Ten.

21.93%

Havoc rate is the percentage of plays in which a defense records a tackle for loss (including sacks), pass defended (breakup or interception) or forces a fumble. Wisconsin ranked second in both the Big Ten and FBS with a havoc rate of 21.93 percent in 2019.

27.3%

No team got off the field like Wisconsin in 2019. The Badgers allowed opponents to convert on just 48 of 176 opportunities on third downs last year, a 27.3 percent rate that led the nation.

DEFENSE Linebackers Chris Orr and Zack Baun leave big shoes to fill after combining for 33.5 tackles for a loss and 24 sacks last season.

Leo Chenal, who saw time as a true freshman, will replace Orr on the inside. He'll be paired with Jack Sanborn, who will be counted on to make more plays. But outside linebacker, traditionally a position of strength, is a spot with some questions. The hope is that a star breaks through, as Baun did last season. Noah Burks and Izayah Green-May have the most experience, while Jaylan Franklin also will have a chance to play. The outlook at that spot will change significantly if somebody steps forward from a group of freshmen that includes Spencer Lytle, Nick Herbig and Kaden Johnson.

The front of Wisconsin's 3-4 defense could help offset any drop-off in production at linebacker. It's a group loaded with experience, including three capable starters at end: Isaiahh Loudermilk, Garrett Rand and Matt Henningsen. The best player in the group might be Keeanu Benton, who's a load in the middle. "For us to continue to have a good defense," Chryst says, "that group's got to raise their production level."

So does the secondary, which returns loads of experience. Safety Eric Burrell had three interceptions and two fumble recoveries in his first season as a starter. The cornerback spot opposite Faion Hicks was a bit of a revolving door, but Caesar Williams came on late, and Rachad Wildgoose provides a solid option at nickel.

SPECIALISTS Even here, the Badgers have to replace their two biggest strengths: kickoff specialist Zach Hintze, who was a touchback machine, and returner Aron Cruickshank, who transferred to Rutgers in the offseason. Wisconsin needs more consistency from placekicker Collin Larsh, who went 5-of-11 on field goals of 30 yards or more last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Badgers have won at least 10 games in four of Chryst's five seasons, including three trips to New Year's Six bowls. Considering the high-end talent he has to replace, those seem like lofty goals in 2020. But Wisconsin still should be a factor in the division race and, after a reload, could be building toward something special the following season.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR	6	Danny Davis III (Sr.)	24	Adam Krumholz (Sr.)
WR	**3**	**Kendric Pryor (Sr.)**	16	Jack Dunn (Sr.)
LT	**71**	**Cole Van Lanen (Sr.)**	50	Logan Brown (Fr.)
LG	70	Josh Seltzner (Jr.)	75	Joe Tippmann (Fr.)
C	76	Kayden Lyles (Jr.)	85	Cormac Sampson (So.)
RG	**60**	**Logan Bruss (Jr.)**	74	Michael Furtney (So.)
RT	65	Tyler Beach (Jr.)	50	Logan Brown (Fr.)
TE	**84**	**Jake Ferguson (Jr.)**	46	Gabe Lloyd (Sr.)
QB	**17**	**Jack Coan (Sr.)**	5	Graham Mertz (Fr.)
RB	37	Garrett Groshek (Sr.)	14	Nakia Watson (So.)
FB	**34**	**Mason Stokke (Sr.)**	44	John Chenal (Jr.)

DEFENSE (9)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**97**	**Isaiahh Loudermilk (Sr.)**	92	Matt Henningsen (Jr.)
NT	95	Keeanu Benton (So.)	91	Bryson Williams (Jr.)
DT	**93**	**Garrett Rand (Sr.)**	99	Isaiah Mullens (So.)
OLB	**41**	**Noah Burks (Sr.)**	7	Spencer Lytle (Fr.)
MLB	45	Leo Chenal (So.)	58	Mike Maskalunas (Sr.)
MLB	**57**	**Jack Sanborn (Jr.)**	55	Maema Njongmeta (Fr.)
OLB	50	Izayah Green-May (Jr.)	42	Jaylan Franklin (So.)
CB	**1**	**Faion Hicks (Jr.)**	**5**	**Rachad Wildgoose (Jr.)**
CB	**21**	**Caesar Williams (Sr.)**	5	Rachad Wildgoose (Jr.)
SS	9	Scott Nelson (Jr.)	**2**	**Reggie Pearson (So.)**
FS	**25**	**Eric Burrell (Sr.)**	18	Collin Wilder (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	19	Collin Larsh (Jr.)	**KR**	11	Stephan Bracey (Fr.)
P	96	Conor Schlichting (Jr.)	**PR**	16	Jack Dunn (Sr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jack Coan	**339**	**236**	**2,727**	**18**	**5**
Graham Mertz	**10**	**9**	**73**	**0**	**0**
Chase Wolf	**1**	**1**	**2**	**0**	**0**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Jonathan Taylor	320	2,003	6.3	21
Nakia Watson	**74**	**331**	**4.5**	**2**
Garrett Groshek	**42**	**194**	**4.6**	**2**
Kendric Pryor	**13**	**180**	**13.8**	**2**
Aron Cruickshank	13	138	10.6	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Quintez Cephus	59	901	15.3	7
Jake Ferguson	**33**	**407**	**12.3**	**2**
Danny Davis III	**30**	**250**	**8.3**	**1**
Garrett Groshek	**29**	**289**	**10.0**	**0**
Jonathan Taylor	26	252	9.7	5

KICKING: **Collin Larsh, 12-18 FGs, 89 pts.**
TACKLES: **Jack Sanborn, 80**; Chris Orr, 78
SACKS: Zack Baun, 12.5
INTERCEPTIONS: **Jack Sanborn, 3; Eric Burrell, 3**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE BADGERS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP WISCONSIN

"They do what they do, and you know what you're gonna get. How well they execute it year to year usually comes down to how well they're developed at running back and offensive line. ... They lost Jonathan Taylor, and then there's another guy coming in behind him. Everyone in the league assumes they're going to produce a certain quality running back, and we assume there's going to be a big, physical line that plays really well blocking for them. They're losing some studs on that line, but development of their front is a given. ... Defensively, they're solid; they've always benefited from their offense. They play really smart, they keep everything in front and they wait for you to get worn down from their ball control. You can measure their success by their secondary. The front is so steady year by year, but if they're athletic in the back end or they're experienced, it allows them to do more. ... (Jack) Coan is a solid guy, your typical Wisconsin quarterback. He's never in situations where he's pressed too much. They work well on getting him play action. They're not looking to do anything different this year; it's really about how well they can execute on their system. They're probably the most steady program in the league, them and Iowa. They identify their talent and go out and sell their culture."

C-USA *Preview*

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

EAST DIVISION

1 *WKU* **HILLTOPPERS** 8-5, 6-2 C-USA

2 *Marshall* **THUNDERING HERD** 7-5, 6-2 C-USA

3 *FAU* **OWLS** 8-4, 6-2 C-USA

4 *Charlotte* **49ERS** 7-5, 5-3 C-USA

5 *Middle Tennessee* **BLUE RAIDERS** 6-6, 4-4 C-USA

6 *FIU* **PANTHERS** 5-7, 2-6 C-USA

7 *Old Dominion* **MONARCHS** 3-9, 2-6 C-USA

WEST DIVISION

1 *UAB* **BLAZERS** 10-3, 6-2 C-USA

2 *Southern Miss* **GOLDEN EAGLES** 8-4, 5-3 C-USA

3 *Louisiana Tech* **BULLDOGS** 7-5, 5-3 C-USA

4 *Rice* **OWLS** 5-7, 4-4 C-USA

5 *North Texas* **MEAN GREEN** 4-8, 3-5 C-USA

6 *UTSA* **ROADRUNNERS** 4-8, 2-6 C-USA

7 *UTEP* **MINERS** 1-11, 0-8 C-USA

C-USA Championship: **UAB over WKU**

Games to Watch

AUG. 29
MARSHALL AT ECU
This game will honor the 75 people who died when the chartered jet plane carrying Marshall's team crashed on Nov. 14, 1970.

SEPT. 12
LOUISIANA TECH AT SOUTHERN MISS
Division play gets an early start when Louisiana Tech heads to Hattiesburg to face Southern Miss.

SEPT. 17
UAB AT MIAMI (FLA.)
Miami went 0–2 against Conference USA teams last season. UAB will try to make it three in a row for C-USA against the Hurricanes.

SEPT. 26
USF AT FAU
New FAU coach Willie Taggart's debut season with the Owls includes a visit from one of his former teams.

OCT. 3
CHARLOTTE AT FAU
Charlotte took a step forward last season. The 49ers can continue their rise with an upset of FAU.

OCT. 10
MARSHALL AT WKU
Marshall and WKU tied for second in C-USA East last season, but the Thundering Herd have won three in row in the "Moonshine Throwdown."

Kamp Fender/UAB Athletics

2020 Unit Rankings

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
Charlotte	2	4	1	6	4	10	5
FAU	1	2	6	5	12	2	7
FIU	11	12	7	3	9	7	3
Louisiana Tech	7	5	3	4	7	11	11
Marshall	6	3	10	2	3	6	4
Middle Tennessee	3	10	11	8	13	12	12
North Texas	12	7	4	12	11	9	9
Old Dominion	13	13	13	14	6	8	8
Rice	10	14	9	10	8	4	10
Southern Miss	4	8	8	7	5	5	6
UAB	5	1	2	9	2	1	1
UTEP	14	11	14	13	14	14	14
UTSA	9	9	12	11	10	13	13
WKU	8	6	5	1	1	3	2

Recruiting by School

1. North Texas
2. Florida Atlantic
3. FIU
4. Louisiana Tech
5. Southern Miss
6. Western Kentucky
7. Charlotte
8. Middle Tennessee
9. Rice
10. Old Dominion
11. Marshall
12. UAB
13. UTSA
14. UTEP

Kristopher Moll

2020 Bowl Projections

Bahamas Bowl: FAU vs. Miami (Ohio)

Birmingham Bowl: Southern Miss vs. Memphis

Boca Bowl: UAB vs. UCF

Cure Bowl: Middle Tennessee vs. Liberty

First Responder Bowl: Louisiana Tech vs. Wash. State

Hawaii Bowl: Marshall vs. Nevada

Myrtle Beach Bowl: Charlotte vs. Arkansas State

New Orleans Bowl: WKU vs. Louisiana

C-USA Coordinator Carousel

Charlotte: Offense
New: Mark Carney
Old: Alex Atkins

FAU: Offense
New: Drew Mehringer, Clint Trickett
Old: Charlie Weis Jr.

FAU: Defense
New: Jim Leavitt
Old: Glenn Spencer

Louisiana Tech: Offense
New: Joe Sloan
Old: Todd Fitch

Louisiana Tech: Defense
New: David Blackwell
Old: Bob Diaco

North Texas: Offense
New: Mike Bloesch, Tommy Mainord
Old: Bodie Reeder

North Texas: Defense
New: Clint Bowen
Old: Troy Reffett

Old Dominion: Offense
New: Kirk Campbell
Old: Brian Scott

Old Dominion: Defense
New: Blake Seiler
Old: David Blackwell, Gary Brown

Southern Miss: Offense
New: Matt Kubik, Scotty Walden
Old: Buster Faulkner, Scotty Walden

Southern Miss: Defense
New: Tony Pecoraro
Old: Tim Billings, Derek Nicholson

UTSA: Offense
New: Barry Lunney Jr.
Old: Jeff Kastl

UTSA: Defense
New: Tyrone Nix
Old: Jason Rollins

WKU: Offense
New: Bryan Ellis, Ryan Aplin
Old: Bryan Ellis

WKU: Defense
New: Maurice Crum, Clayton White
Old: Clayton White

OCT. 17
WKU AT UAB
These two teams finished 1-2 in total and scoring defense in C-USA in 2019, so points may be at a premium.

OCT. 24
FAU AT Marshall
Marshall has won six of its seven meetings with FAU, including last season, although the Owls still finished atop the C-USA East standings.

OCT. 31
UAB AT LOUISIANA TECH
UAB has claimed the last three meetings, including last season's 20–14 win in late November that secured the C-USA West title.

NOV. 7
WKU AT FAU
WKU put together an impressive turnaround last season but finished a game behind FAU in the C-USA East.

NOV. 14
FAU AT FIU
The Owls have won the past three meetings vs. FIU by an average of 31 points per game.

NOV. 28
SOUTHERN MISS AT UAB
Southern Miss dominated UAB last season, winning 37–2 in Hattiesburg. The Blazers still won the C-USA West title and are hungry for some payback.

C-USA Preview

Victor Tucker

C-USA Returning Leaders

Passing	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	AVG/G
Jack Abraham, Southern Miss	405	275	67.9	3,496	19	15	268.9
Chris Robison, FAU	471	291	61.8	3,701	28	6	264.4
Asher O'Hara, Middle Tennessee	335	210	62.7	2,616	20	8	218.0

Rushing	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
Brenden Knox, Marshall	270	1,387	5.1	11	43	106.7
Gaej Walker, Western Kentucky	241	1,208	5.0	8	68	92.9
Asher O'Hara, Middle Tennessee	199	1,058	5.3	9	53	88.2

Receiving	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
Austin Watkins Jr., UAB	57	1,092	19.2	6	67	78.0
Victor Tucker, Charlotte	52	909	17.5	7	58	69.9
Tim Jones, Southern Miss	73	902	12.4	3	68	69.4

Tackles: Tavante Beckett, Marshall (121), Lawrence Garner, Old Dominion (111)
Sacks: DeAngelo Malone, Western Kentucky (11.5), Jordan Smith, UAB (10.0)
Interceptions: Rishard Dames, FIU (4)

2019 C-USA Standings

EAST	C-USA	OVERALL	WEST	C-USA	OVERALL
Florida Atlantic	7-1	11-3	UAB	6-2	9-5
Marshall	6-2	8-5	Louisiana Tech	6-2	10-3
Western Kentucky	6-2	9-4	Southern Miss	5-3	7-6
Charlotte	5-3	7-6	Rice	3-5	3-9
Middle Tennessee	3-5	4-8	North Texas	3-5	4-8
FIU	3-5	6-7	UTSA	3-5	4-8
Old Dominion	0-8	1-11	UTEP	0-8	1-11

2019 Bowl Results

Bahamas Bowl: Buffalo 31, Charlotte 9
Camellia Bowl: Arkansas State 34, FIU 26
Armed Forces Bowl: Tulane 30, Southern Miss 13
Independence Bowl: Louisiana Tech 14, Miami (Fla.) 0
First Responder Bowl: Western Kentucky 23, Western Michigan 20
Gasparilla Bowl: UCF 48, Marshall 25
New Orleans Bowl: Appalachian State 31, UAB 17
Boca Raton Bowl: Florida Atlantic 52, SMU 28

2019 C-USA Team Stats & Rankings

Offense

	SCORING	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
Charlotte	29.8 (4)	200.4 (1)	211.5 (8)	411.8 (4)
FAU	36.4 (1)	166.0 (5)	282.6 (3)	448.6 (1)
FIU	26.5 (6)	165.2 (6)	211.8 (7)	377.1 (9)
Louisiana Tech	32.5 (2)	168.4 (4)	268.5 (4)	436.8 (2)
Marshall	25.8 (8)	193.4 (2)	200.4 (10)	393.8 (7)
Middle Tennessee	26.3 (7)	171.9 (3)	236.4 (6)	408.3 (5)
North Texas	30.6 (3)	135.3 (10)	283.3 (2)	418.6 (3)
Old Dominion	16.3 (14)	97.3 (14)	176.4 (13)	273.8 (14)
Rice	17.9 (13)	128.2 (12)	166.0 (14)	294.2 (13)
Southern Miss	26.6 (5)	117.5 (13)	289.5 (1)	407.0 (6)
UAB	23.1 (10)	150.8 (8)	201.1 (9)	351.9 (10)
UTEP	19.6 (12)	138.2 (9)	191.0 (11)	329.2 (12)
UTSA	20.3 (11)	162.5 (7)	182.4 (12)	344.9 (11)
WKU	25.4 (9)	128.5 (11)	259.3 (5)	387.8 (8)

Defense

	SCORING	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
Charlotte	32.4 (11)	191.9 (10)	189.0 (2)	380.9 (9)
FAU	22.7 (4)	135.5 (3)	238.7 (11)	374.2 (5)
FIU	27.2 (8)	196.0 (12)	195.0 (3)	391.0 (10)
Louisiana Tech	21.8 (3)	137.2 (5)	240.5 (12)	377.7 (6)
Marshall	25.0 (5)	148.0 (8)	231.6 (9)	379.6 (7)
Middle Tennessee	29.9 (10)	194.0 (11)	265.3 (14)	459.3 (14)
North Texas	32.5 (12)	188.6 (9)	222.3 (5)	410.9 (11)
Old Dominion	29.8 (9)	147.6 (7)	223.5 (6)	371.1 (4)
Rice	25.9 (6)	138.3 (6)	241.9 (13)	380.3 (8)
Southern Miss	26.2 (7)	115.8 (1)	236.7 (10)	352.5 (3)
UAB	21.6 (2)	118.2 (2)	183.6 (1)	301.9 (1)
UTEP	35.9 (14)	201.3 (14)	229.6 (7)	430.8 (13)
UTSA	33.9 (13)	198.3 (13)	230.8 (8)	429.1 (12)
WKU	20.1 (1)	135.5 (4)	199.9 (4)	335.5 (2)

Tucker, Reynolds: Charlotte Athletics; Knox: Marshall Athletics; Novil: North Texas Athletics

ALL-C-USA TEAM

First-Team Offense

QB	**Chris Robison**	6-1	200	Jr.	FAU
RB	**Brenden Knox**	6-0	220	Jr.	Marshall
RB	**Spencer Brown**	6-0	230	Sr.	UAB
AP	**Justin Henderson**	5-10	218	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
WR	**Victor Tucker**	5-11	177	Jr.	Charlotte
WR	**Austin Watkins Jr.**	6-3	205	Sr.	UAB
TE	**Joshua Simon**	6-5	235	So.	WKU
C	**Kody Russey**	6-1	290	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
OL	**Cain Madden**	6-3	338	Sr.	Marshall
OL	**D'Antne Demery**	6-5	320	Sr.	FIU
OL	**Jordan Meredith**	6-3	300	Sr.	WKU
OL	**Arvin Fletcher**	6-3	310	Sr.	Southern Miss

Brenden Knox

Dion Novil

First-Team Defense

DL	**DeAngelo Malone**	6-4	230	Sr.	WKU
DL	**Keion White**	6-4	267	Jr.	Old Dominion
DL	**Dion Novil**	6-4	315	Sr.	North Texas
DL	**Jordan Smith**	6-7	250	Jr.	UAB
LB	**Kristopher Moll**	6-1	215	Sr.	UAB
LB	**Blaze Alldredge**	6-2	220	Sr.	Rice
LB	**Tavante Beckett**	5-10	209	Sr.	Marshall
CB	**Brontae Harris**	5-10	190	Sr.	UAB
CB	**Kaleb Ford-Dement**	5-11	180	Jr.	Old Dominion
S	**Reed Blankenship**	6-1	196	Sr.	Middle Tennessee
S	**Ben DeLuca**	6-1	207	Sr.	Charlotte

First-Team Specialists

K	**Ethan Mooney**	6-0	211	Jr.	North Texas
P	**John Haggerty**	6-5	230	Sr.	WKU
KR	**Jaylond Adams**	5-10	180	Jr.	Southern Miss
PR	**Talik Keaton**	6-1	180	So.	Marshall

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	**Chris Reynolds**	5-10	192	Jr.	Charlotte
RB	**Gaej Walker**	6-0	195	Sr.	WKU
RB	**Sincere McCormick**	5-9	200	So.	UTSA
AP	**Aaron McAllister**	5-10	216	Sr.	Charlotte
WR	**Jaelon Darden**	5-9	172	Sr.	North Texas
WR	**Tim Jones**	6-1	192	Sr.	Southern Miss
TE	**Xavier Gaines**	6-3	221	Sr.	Marshall
C	**Jaelin Fisher**	6-2	285	Sr.	Charlotte
OL	**Cole Spencer**	6-4	290	Jr.	WKU
OL	**Desmond Noel**	6-3	299	Sr.	FAU
OL	**Willie Allen**	6-6	343	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
OL	**Shane McGough**	6-2	302	Sr.	FIU

Chris Reynolds
Charlotte

Asher O'Hara
Middle Tennessee

Rishard Dames
FIU

Leighton McCarthy
Florida Atlantic

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	**Jacques Turner**	6-1	247	Sr.	Southern Miss
DL	**Markees Watts**	6-0	218	Jr.	Charlotte
DL	**Milton Williams**	6-4	271	Jr.	Louisiana Tech
DL	**Darius Hodge**	6-2	238	Jr.	Marshall
LB	**Keke Leroy**	5-11	235	Sr.	FAU
LB	**Kyle Bailey**	6-0	225	Sr.	WKU
LB	**Lawrence Garner**	6-3	230	Sr.	Old Dominion
CB	**Nafees Lyon**	5-10	184	Sr.	Charlotte
CB	**Rishard Dames**	5-11	165	Jr.	FIU
S	**Ky'el Hemby**	6-1	195	Sr.	Southern Miss
S	**Antwon Kincade**	5-11	195	Sr.	WKU

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	**Andrew Stein**	5-10	170	So.	Southern Miss
P	**Matt Hayball**	6-1	172	So.	FAU
KR	**Deion Hair-Griffin**	5-10	170	Sr.	North Texas
PR	**Jaylond Adams**	5-10	180	Jr.	Southern Miss

THIRD-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	**Asher O'Hara**	6-0	188	Jr.	Middle Tennessee
RB	**Malcolm Davidson**	5-10	205	Jr.	FAU
RB	**Tre Siggers**	5-8	200	Jr.	North Texas
AP	**Jahcour Pearson**	5-9	180	Sr.	WKU
WR	**John Mitchell**	6-4	220	Sr.	FAU
WR	**Bradley Rozner**	6-5	195	Jr.	Rice
TE	**Sterling Palmer**	6-6	235	Jr.	FIU
C	**Seth Joest**	6-3	295	Sr.	WKU
OL	**Robert Jones**	6-5	319	Sr.	Middle Tennessee
OL	**Bobby DeHaro**	6-4	310	Jr.	UTEP
OL	**Colby Ragland**	6-5	300	Sr.	UAB
OL	**Spencer Burford**	6-4	300	Jr.	UTSA

THIRD-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	**Tony Fair**	6-3	335	Sr.	UAB
DL	**Juwuan Jones**	6-3	270	Jr.	WKU
DL	**Willie Baker**	6-3	246	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
DL	**Leighton McCarthy**	6-3	225	Sr.	FAU
LB	**Jamal Gates**	6-2	225	Sr.	FIU
LB	**Tyreke Davis**	5-10	209	Sr.	North Texas
LB	**Racheem Boothe**	6-0	210	Sr.	Southern Miss
CB	**TD Marshall**	6-0	185	Sr.	UAB
CB	**Rachuan Mitchell**	5-11	190	Sr.	Southern Miss
S	**Dy'jonn Turner**	5-11	210	Sr.	UAB
S	**Dorian Hall**	6-4	190	Jr.	FIU

THIRD-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	**Jonathan Cruz**	5-9	175	Jr.	Charlotte
P	**Tommy Heatherly**	5-11	210	Sr.	FIU
KR	**Blake Watson**	5-9	190	So.	Old Dominion
PR	**Austin Trammell**	5-10	182	Sr.	Rice

O'Hara: Middle Tennessee Athletics; Dames: FIU Athletics; McCarthy: Florida Atlantic Athletics

CHARLOTTE 49ERS

National Forecast: **89** • C-USA East Prediction: **4** • Projected Record: **7-5, 5-3 C-USA**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at Tennessee
Sept.	12	Norfolk State
Sept.	17	at Duke
Sept.	26	Georgia State
Oct.	3	at Florida Atlantic
Oct.	10	at North Texas
Oct.	17	FIU
Oct.	24	UTEP
Nov.	7	at Middle Tennessee
Nov.	14	Old Dominion
Nov.	21	at Marshall
Nov.	28	Western Kentucky

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 7-6, 5-3 C-USA

Aug.	29	Gardner-Webb	W	49-28
Sept.	7	at Appalachian State	L	41-56
Sept.	14	Massachusetts	W	52-17
Sept.	21	at Clemson	L	10-52
Sept.	28	Florida Atlantic	L	27-45
Oct.	12	at FIU	L	23-48
Oct.	19	at Western Kentucky	L	14-30
Oct.	26	North Texas	W	39-38
Nov.	2	Middle Tennessee	W	34-20
Nov.	9	at UTEP	W	28-21
Nov.	23	Marshall	W	24-13
Nov.	30	at Old Dominion	W	38-22
Dec.	20	vs. Buffalo #	L	9-31

#Bahamas Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Lyndarious Strange, S, Tallahassee, FL*
2. Elijah Turner, RB, Buford, GA
3. Trey Creamer, CB, Cartersville, GA*
4. Dajeun Gibson, S, Murfreesboro, TN
5. Arabee Muslim, OG, Charlotte, NC
6. Taylor Thompson, TE, Prattville, AL
7. Braylin Johnson, WR, Duncan, SC
8. Donta Armstrong, TE, Charlotte, NC
9. Shedrick Ursery, S, Hialeah, FL
10. Briston Bennett, CB, Franklin, TN

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	CUSA	NATIONAL
Scoring	29.8 ppg	4	59
Rushing	203.0 ypg	1	31
Passing	211.5 ypg	8	84
Total	414.5 ypg	4	56
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	32.4 ppg	11	103
Rushing	191.9 ypg	10	97
Passing	189.0 ypg	2	14
Total	380.9 ypg	9	59
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
-4	-0.31	7	90

STAT CORNER

3

The 49ers allowed 12.53 yards per punt return last season, No. 116 in the country. Opponents scored three times on punt returns.

OFFENSE Charlotte's spread option attack averaged 29.8 points and 414.5 yards per game last season. With quarterbacks coach Mark Carney taking over as offensive coordinator and quarterback Chris Reynolds back after a breakout season, head coach Will Healy hopes that an expanded playbook and an arsenal of veteran playmakers will allow that upward trajectory to continue. Reynolds, a dual-threat quarterback who threw for a school-record 22 TDs and rushed for six more, will have his favorite target back in Victor Tucker, who caught seven of Reynolds' scoring passes. Veteran receivers Cameron Dollar and Tyler Ringwood return alongside Rico Arnold, who had a standout season as a freshman in 2018 but was lost in the preseason last year with a foot injury.

The biggest concern facing the 49ers on the offensive side of the ball is replacing running back Benny LeMay, an all-conference performer who rushed for 1,072 yards and nine scores in 2019. LeMay's understudy from last season, Aaron McAllister, is back along with transfer Tre Harbison, who had back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons at Northern Illinois.

The 49ers lost three starters along the offensive line but welcome back two mainstays in center Jaelin Fisher and tackle D'Mitri Emmanuel, and they have high hopes for junior college transfer Ashton Gist.

DEFENSE Gone are high-end performers such as the school's all-time sacks leader in defensive end Alex Highsmith and all-time tackles leader in linebacker Jeff Gemmell. But this year's defense should still have plenty of firepower.

Defensive end Markees Watts returns after racking up 9.5 sacks last season. He'll anchor a defensive line that will expect big things from tackle Timmy Horne and ends Tyriq Harris and Jaison Williams, who comes to Charlotte after earning FCS second-team All-America status while playing for Healy at Austin Peay.

Junior linebacker Henry Segura will get help from Penn State transfer Brelin Faison-Walden and Troy transfer Tyler Murray. Healy also sees good things in sophomores Jaylon Sharpe and Prince Bemah.

In the secondary, safeties Ben DeLuca and Ja'Cione Fugate and cornerbacks Nafees Lyon and Jonnie Pitman make for a veteran core.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Jonathan Cruz and punter Connor Bowler return as solid options. But with Charlotte having three kicks and three punts blocked, and with opponents averaging 25.6 yards per kickoff return, special teams were a source of frustration. With former Old Dominion assistant Charles Bankins taking over as special teams coach, the 49ers expect that to change.

FINAL ANALYSIS By delivering the program its first winning season and first bowl bid — and creating a fun bit of program culture with the formation of "Club Lit," the wild locker-room-turned-nightclub celebration that followed victories — Healy made Charlotte football feel relevant. With non-conference games against Tennessee, Duke and Georgia State, in addition to an improving slate of C-USA teams, it will be a challenge to keep that energy going. But with experienced playmakers at key spots and a renovated locker room that leans into the "Club Lit" vibe, there should still be plenty of moments worth celebrating.

Victor Tucker

"They've had some success; now they have to figure out how to build consistency. That's a lot harder. Maybe the defense carries them for a while?"

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)				
WR	**9**	**Victor Tucker (Jr.)**	21	Rico Arnold (So.)
WR	**4**	**Cameron Dollar (Jr.)**	6	Tre' Goode (So.)
WR	81	Tyler Ringwood (Sr.)	15	Justin Jeffery (So.)
LT	77	Malik Harkness (So.)	63	Jacob Webb (Jr.)
LG	75	Jonathan Timmons (Sr.)	55	Michael Adams (Jr.)
C	**68**	**Jaelin Fisher (Sr.)**	57	Ashton Gist (Jr.)
RG	69	Dejan Rasuo (So.)	64	D.J. Bagwell (Fr.)
RT	**70**	**D'Mitri Emmanuel (Jr.)**	73	Yontez Jarrell (Fr.)
TE	**88**	**Jacob Hunt (Jr.)**	85	Ryan Carriere (Sr.)
QB	**3**	**Chris Reynolds (Jr.)**	2	Dominique Shoffner (Jr.)
RB	5	Aaron McAllister (Sr.)	22	Tre Harbison (Sr.)
DEFENSE (7)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	**40**	**Markees Watts (Jr.)**	99	Taylor Chandler (So.)
DT	**98**	**Timmy Horne (Sr.)**	57	Siah Sa'o (Sr.)
DT	60	Bryan Wallace (So.)	58	Johnny Ray (Sr.)
DE	**10**	**Tyriq Harris (Sr.)**	9	Jaison Williams (Sr.)
OLB	33	Jaylon Sharpe (So.)	18	Prince Bemah (Fr.)
MLB	**22**	**Henry Segura (Jr.)**	5	Tyler Murray (Jr.)
OLB	2	Brelin Faison-Walden (Sr.)	46	Dillon Overholt (So.)
CB	**8**	**Nafees Lyon (Sr.)**	3	Trey Creamer (Jr.)
CB	**29**	**Jonnie Pitman (So.)**	4	Lance McMillan (So.)
SS	**28**	**Ben DeLuca (Sr.)**	24	Solomon Rogers (So.)
FS	1	Ja'Cione Fugate (Sr.)	23	Matt Martinez (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	11	Jonathan Cruz (Jr.)	**KR**	5	Aaron McAllister (Sr.)
P	19	Connor Bowler (Jr.)	**PR**	8	Nafees Lyon (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Chris Reynolds, 291-181-2,564-11, 22 TDs
Rushing: Chris Reynolds, 153 att., 791 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Victor Tucker, 52 rec., 909 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Ja'Cione Fugate, 70
Sacks: Markees Watts, 9.5
Interceptions: Henry Segura, 2

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Will Healy
Record at School: 7-6 (1 year)
Career Record: 7-6 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Mark Carney
Defensive Coordinators: Brandon Cooper, Marcus West
Charlotte, NC • Jerry Richardson Stadium (15,314)

Sam Roberts

FLORIDA ATLANTIC Owls

National Forecast: **78** · C-USA East Prediction: **3** · Projected Record: **8-4, 6-2 C-USA**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3	at Minnesota
Sept.	12	Stony Brook
Sept.	19	at Georgia Southern
Sept.	26	USF
Oct.	3	Charlotte
Oct.	10	at Southern Miss
Oct.	24	at Marshall
Oct.	31	UTSA
Nov.	7	Western Kentucky
Nov.	14	at FIU
Nov.	21	Old Dominion
Nov.	28	at Middle Tennessee

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 11-3, 7-1 C-USA

Aug.	31	at Ohio State	L	21-45
Sept.	7	UCF	L	14-48
Sept.	14	at Ball State	W	41-31
Sept.	21	Wagner	W	42-7
Sept.	28	at Charlotte	W	45-27
Oct.	12	Middle Tennessee	W	28-13
Oct.	18	Marshall	L	31-36
Oct.	26	at Old Dominion	W	41-3
Nov.	2	at Western Kentucky	W	35-24
Nov.	9	FIU	W	37-7
Nov.	23	at UTSA	W	40-26
Nov.	30	Southern Miss	W	34-17
Dec.	7	UAB #	W	49-6
Dec.	21	SMU %	W	52-28

#C-USA Championship %Boca Raton Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Sebastien Dolcine, OG, Hollywood, FL*
2. Ja'Marquis Johnson, WR, Nashville, GA
3. Marlon Krakue, DE, Marietta, GA
4. Chris Jones, DE, Pompano Beach, FL
5. Alvin Dempsey III, DT, Port Saint Joe, FL*
6. Lou Dorsey, TE, Jacksonville, FL*
7. Malik Jones, DT, Zephyrhills, FL
8. Willie Taggart Jr., ATH, Tallahassee, FL
9. Alex Atcavage, OG, Honesdale, PA
10. Trevor Reaves, CB, Miami, FL

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	CUSA	NATIONAL
Scoring	36.4 ppg	1	14
Rushing	166.0 ypg	5	62
Passing	282.6 ypg	3	29
Total	448.6 ypg	1	23
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	22.7 ppg	4	40
Rushing	135.5 ypg	3	33
Passing	238.7 ypg	11	87
Total	374.2 ypg	5	50
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
+21	+1.50	1	1

STAT CORNER

22

Despite breaking up just 7.9 percent of opponent pass attempts last year, FAU led the nation with 22 interceptions.

OFFENSE The Lane Kiffin era came to an abrupt end in December when the Lane Train departed Florida Atlantic for Ole Miss minutes after the Owls claimed their second Conference USA title during his three seasons.

FAU hired another offensive-minded coach, Willie Taggart, to keep momentum rolling. Taggart inked former Texas passing coordinator Drew Mehringer and promoted tight ends coach Clint Trickett to be co-offensive coordinators.

Tight end Harrison Bryant, FAU's first All-American, graduated, but Kiffin left Taggart other potent weapons, including All-C-USA quarterback Chris Robison.

Taggart bolstered a depleted receiving unit with a crop of transfers. Graduate transfer Aaron Young (Duke) is eligible immediately, and undergrad transfers Yanez Rogers (Cincinnati), D'Marcus Adams (FSU), and T.J. Chase (Clemson) are all expected to be eligible this season. Wideout John Mitchell and reserve slot receiver Willie Wright, a 2017 C-USA All-Freshman selection, both finished 2019 strong.

FAU returns its top four running backs, led by speedster Malcolm Davidson. BJ Emmons returned from a broken ankle suffered in the 2019 season opener to score six touchdowns over the final four games.

Up front, junior college signees Sebastien Dolcine and Eli Fields fortify the tackle spots, but replacing two-year starting center Junior Diaz is problematic.

Tight end Louis Dorsey, a 2017 Big Ten All-Freshman selection at Illinois, announced he would resurface at FAU.

DEFENSE Former USF head coach Jim Leavitt, FAU's fifth defensive coordinator in as many years, brings his hybrid 3-4, replacing Glenn Spencer's hybrid 4-3. FAU led the nation in turnover margin last season, but considering the talent lost from that team, the timing of the switch might work well.

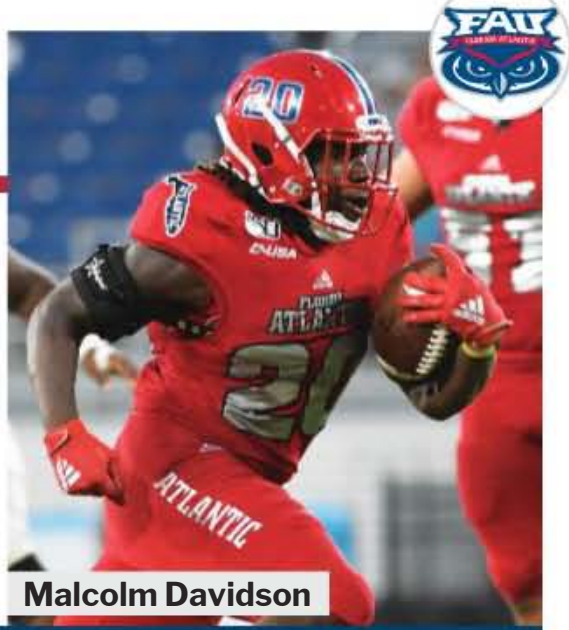
All four defensive tackles from FAU's two-deep and three of four starters along the defensive line are gone. Senior Leighton McCarthy, the lone returning starter, excelled in the hybrid DE/LB role last season.

The Owls' strength at linebacker hinges on the return of Keke Leroy. FAU suspended the second-team All-Conference USA performer from the Boca Raton Bowl for academic reasons and left him off its spring roster. His return is critical for a unit that lacked depth even in a three-man base.

FAU is without its two starting corners. Reserve corner Meiko Dotson entered the transfer portal after tying for the national lead with nine interceptions, but he now seems likely to stay.

SPECIALISTS FAU joined the Aussie trend last season by adding freshman punter Matt Hayball, significantly improving that unit. Kicker Vladimir Rivas rebounded from a shaky-at-best 2018 to start strong in 2019. He didn't finish well, though, missing five field-goal attempts over FAU's final four games.

FINAL ANALYSIS To keep FAU's offense rolling, Taggart needs to integrate some highly regarded transfers into a talented roster and identify a passable center. The lack of spring practices is certainly a setback for a team installing a completely new defense and trying to replace pieces along both lines. A slow start seemed likely even before the spring shutdown, but there is certainly enough talent for this team to challenge for a C-USA title again.



Malcolm Davidson

"How is (Willie) Taggart going to treat this job? We're curious. Is he bitter about Florida State? Is he motivated like Lane (Kiffin) was?"

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**85**	**John Mitchell (Sr.)**		D'Marcus Adams (So.)
WR		Aaron Young (Sr.)	89	Brandon Robinson (Jr.)
WR	1	Willie Wright (Sr.)		Yanez Rogers (So.)
LT		Sebastien Dolcine (Jr.)	77	Devin Hayes (So.)
LG	**53**	**Desmond Noel (Sr.)**	76	BJ Etienne (Jr.)
C	64	Federico Maranges (Fr.)		Andre Lamas (Fr.)
RG	**63**	**Nick Weber (Jr.)**		Alex Atcavage (Fr.)
RT		Eli Fields (So.)	**75**	**Marquice Robinson (So.)**
TE		Lou Dorsey (Jr.)	34	Rahmod Smith (Fr.)
QB	**2**	**Chris Robison (Jr.)**	6	Nick Tronti (Jr.)
RB	**20**	**Malcolm Davidson (Jr.)**	4	BJ Emmons (Sr.)

DEFENSE (4) — Returning Starters in Bold

DE	33	David Belvin III (Sr.)	52	Jaylen Joyner (So.)
DT		Alvin Dempsey III (Jr.)		Malcolm Lamar (So.)
DE	92	Marcel Southall (Sr.)	95	Marlon Bradley (Fr.)
OLB	19	Caliph Brice (Sr.)	59	Antarrius Moultrie (Fr.)
ILB	54	Hosea Barnwell V (Sr.)	43	Diamante Howard (Fr.)
ILB	**36**	**Keke Leroy (Sr.)**	58	Eddie Williams (So.)
OLB	**13**	**Leighton McCarthy (Sr.)**		Chris Jones (Fr.)
CB	15	Meiko Dotson (Sr.)	12	Diashun Moss (Sr.)
CB	29	Korel Smith (Sr.)	32	Teja Young (So.)
S	**5**	**Ahman Ross (Jr.)**	9	Quran Hafiz (Sr.)
S	**24**	**Zyon Gilbert (Sr.)**	30	Armani-Eli Adams (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	44	Vladimir Rivas (Jr.)	**KR**	1	Willie Wright (Sr.)
P	42	Matt Hayball (So.)	**PR**		Lajohntay Wester (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Chris Robison, 471-291-3,701-6, 28 TDs
Rushing: Malcolm Davidson, 102 att., 711 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: John Mitchell, 38 rec., 488 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Hosea Barnwell V, 57
Sacks: Leighton McCarthy, 6.0
Interceptions: Meiko Dotson, 9

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Willie Taggart
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 56-62 (10 years)
Offensive Coordinators: Drew Mehringer, Clint Trickett
Defensive Coordinator: Jim Leavitt
Boca Raton, FL • FAU Stadium (29,571)

JC Ridley/Owlpix.com

FIU Panthers

National Forecast: **108** · C-USA East Prediction: **6** · Projected Record: **5-7, 2-6 C-USA**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3	Jacksonville State
Sept.	12	at UCF
Sept.	19	at Old Dominion
Sept.	26	at Liberty
Oct.	10	Middle Tennessee
Oct.	17	at Charlotte
Oct.	24	at Massachusetts
Oct.	31	Marshall
Nov.	7	at UTEP
Nov.	14	Florida Atlantic
Nov.	21	at Western Kentucky
Nov.	28	Louisiana Tech

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 6-7, 3-5 C-USA

Aug.	30	at Tulane	L	14-42
Sept.	7	Western Kentucky	L	14-20
Sept.	14	New Hampshire	W	30-17
Sept.	20	at Louisiana Tech	L	31-43
Oct.	5	Massachusetts	W	44-0
Oct.	12	Charlotte	W	48-23
Oct.	19	UTEP	W	32-17
Oct.	26	at Middle Tennessee	L	17-50
Nov.	2	Old Dominion	W	24-17
Nov.	9	at Florida Atlantic	L	7-37
Nov.	23	Miami	W	30-24
Nov.	30	at Marshall	L	27-30
Dec.	21	vs. Arkansas State #	L	26-34

#Camellia Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. AJ Mathis, LB, Largo, FL
2. Jose Mirabal, OG, Homestead, FL
3. Eric Wilson Jr., RB, Seffner, FL
4. Kejon Owens, RB, Miami, FL
5. Jamal Potts, CB, Delray Beach, FL
6. Xavier McGriff, WR, Jacksonville, FL
7. Haden Carlson, QB, Lutz, FL
8. Jecoryan Davis-Hamilton, ATH, Apopka, FL
9. Chance Coleman, LB, Tampa, FL
10. Jahmari Sylvester, OG, Fort Lauderdale, FL

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	CUSA	NATIONAL
Scoring	26.5 ppg	6	83
Rushing	165.2 ypg	6	63
Passing	211.8 ypg	7	83
Total	377.1 ypg	9	91
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	27.2 ppg	8	63
Rushing	198.6 ypg	13	106
Passing	195.0 ypg	3	17
Total	393.6 ypg	10	69
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
+3	+0.23	4	46

STAT CORNER

17.51%

FIU allowed opponents to gain 10 yards or more on 90 of 514 rushing attempts, a rate of 17.51 percent that ranked as the worst in C-USA and No. 127 in the country.

OFFENSE FIU makes a transition at quarterback with the exit of James Morgan, but Kaylan Wiggins brings his own dynamic attributes behind center for the Panthers. Wiggins is a talented dual threat who saw action last season in special packages but now will engineer the entire offense. He doesn't need to be spectacular with talented running back D'Vonte Price (50 carries, 249 yards in 2019), but efficiency is crucial.

Sterling Palmer is one of the top tight ends in the nation and will help Wiggins immensely in the passing game. There is also plenty of talent at wide receiver with Georgia transfer JJ Holloman eligible. Holloman caught 24 passes for 418 yards with five touchdowns for the Bulldogs in 2018. Joining Holloman at receiver are former starter Bryce Singleton — injured in 2019 — who is returning along with Shemar Thornton. Again, this unit doesn't need spectacular plays. They need efficiency, to move the chains and to limit turnovers. Offensive lineman D'Antne Demery headlines a strong group that also returns center Shane McGough.

DEFENSE The Panthers have a surplus of talent, experience and depth at each level of the defense, which should make for one of Conference USA's better units. The front seven should be a strong point, led by the return of linebacker Jamal Gates, who finished second on the team in tackles last season with 85.

On the back end, cornerback Rishard Dames is a playmaker who can wreak havoc behind the line of scrimmage or make plays in coverage, as evidenced by his four interceptions last season. Andrew Tarver leads the defensive front from his interior position, but there are six guys with starter capabilities within the group to allow for free substitutions and for keeping guys rested.

One of the potential X-factors for the defense is Boise State transfer linebacker Tyson Maeva, who is eligible after sitting out 2019 due to NCAA transfer rules. If Maeva shows the same talent he showed while starting in 2018 for the Broncos, he only adds to what could be a special defense for the Panthers.

SPECIALISTS FIU needs a consistent replacement for three-year starting kicker Jose Borregales after Borregales opted to transfer to crosstown Miami after having a big role in the Panthers' upset of the Hurricanes last season. Punter Tommy Heatherly returns, and there are some talented weapons in the return game (Singleton, Price, Holloman) available, but the placekicker spot is critical. Incoming freshman Chase Gabriel, who kicked three field goals of 50 yards or more in a state playoff game, could be a major player for the Panthers.

FINAL ANALYSIS The FIU defense could (and should) be one of the top units in Conference USA. The front seven should be as good as any within the league, and the unit returns experience and depth at each level while intertwining some new pieces that provide plenty of talent. If Wiggins can solidify the offense and Price is able to manage an increase in load from last season while maintaining productivity, the Panthers can utilize their defense to own the time of possession, thus wearing down opponents late. Offensive efficiency will be the key for the Panthers, however, and they need to continue the trend over the last two seasons of winning the turnover battle.

Shemar Thornton

"The quarterback change here will be crucial, because they just lost one of the best in the country, and no one outside our league knew it."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (3)				
WR	1	JJ Holloman (Jr.)	6	Nate Jefferson (Fr.)
WR	2	Bryce Singleton (Jr.)	18	Malik Tyson (Sr.)
WR	**19**	**Shemar Thornton (Sr.)**	85	DeAndre Williams (Jr.)
LT	**77**	**D'Antne Demery (Sr.)**	73	Lyndell Hudson Jr. (So.)
LG	72	Sione Finau (So.)	68	Tahj Brighthaupt (Jr.)
C	**55**	**Shane McGough (Sr.)**	65	Julius Pierce (Fr.)
RG	62	Mershawn Miller (Jr.)	74	Maljon Joor (Jr.)
RT	73	Lyndell Hudson Jr. (So.)	67	Obinna Nwankwo (Sr.)
TE	88	Sterling Palmer (Jr.)	84	David O'Meara (Jr.)
QB	7	Kaylan Wiggins (Jr.)	17	Caleb Lynum (So.)
RB	24	D'Vonte Price (Sr.)	32	Maleek Williams (Jr.)
DEFENSE (6)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	**94**	**Kevin Oliver (Sr.)**	6	Alexy Jean-Baptiste (Sr.)
DT	**90**	**Noah Curtis (Sr.)**	75	Rashad Colson (Jr.)
DT	**95**	**Andrew Tarver (Sr.)**	98	Jordan Woods (Sr.)
DE	47	Chris Whittaker (Jr.)	6	Alexy Jean-Baptiste (Sr.)
OLB	**59**	**Jamal Gates (Sr.)**	45	Rocky Jacques-Louis (Jr.)
MLB	58	Tyson Maeva (Sr.)	53	Tevin Jones (Jr.)
OLB	40	Daniel Jackson (Sr.)	48	Josh Powell (Sr.)
CB	7	Josh Turner (Jr.)	28	Jesson Walker (So.)
CB	**35**	**Rishard Dames (Jr.)**	26	Jamal Anderson (So.)
SS	36	Dorian Hall (Jr.)	27	Benny McCray (Jr.)
FS	**38**	**Richard Dames (Sr.)**	27	Benny McCray (Jr.)
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	39	Tommy Heatherly (Sr.)	**KR** 24	D'Vonte Price (Sr.)
P	39	Tommy Heatherly (Sr.)	**PR** 2	Bryce Singleton (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Kaylan Wiggins, 27-15-172-0, 0 TDs
Rushing: Kaylan Wiggins, 49 att., 323 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Shemar Thornton, 51 rec., 668 yds., 5 TD
Tackles: Jamal Gates, 85
Sacks: Alexy Jean-Baptiste, 3.5
Interceptions: Rishard Dames, 4

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Butch Davis
Record at School: 23-16 (3 years)
Career Record: 86-59 (13 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Rich Skrosky
Defensive Coordinators: Jeff Copp, Jerod Kruse
Miami, FL • Riccardo Silva Stadium (20,000)

Samuel Lewis

MARSHALL Thundering Herd

National Forecast: **77** · C-USA East Prediction: **2** · Projected Record: **7-5, 6-2 C-USA**

2020 SCHEDULE

Aug.	29	at East Carolina
Sept.	12	Pittsburgh
Sept.	19	at Ohio
Sept.	25	Boise State
Oct.	3	Rice
Oct.	10	at Western Kentucky
Oct.	17	at Louisiana Tech
Oct.	24	Florida Atlantic
Oct.	31	at FIU
Nov.	14	Middle Tennessee
Nov.	21	Charlotte
Nov.	28	at Old Dominion

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5, 6-2 C-USA

Aug.	31	VMI	W	56-17
Sept.	6	at Boise State	L	7-14
Sept.	14	Ohio	W	33-31
Sept.	28	Cincinnati	L	14-52
Oct.	5	at Middle Tennessee	L	13-24
Oct.	12	Old Dominion	W	31-17
Oct.	18	at Florida Atlantic	W	36-31
Oct.	26	Western Kentucky	W	26-23
Nov.	2	at Rice	W	20-7
Nov.	15	Louisiana Tech	W	31-10
Nov.	23	at Charlotte	L	13-24
Nov.	30	FIU	W	30-27
Dec.	23	vs. UCF #	L	25-48

#Gasparilla Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jhari Patterson, WR, Asheville, NC
2. Charles Bell VI, S, Gaithersburg, MD
3. JJ Davis, RB, Bluefield, WV
4. Josh Hardeman, S, Covington, GA
5. Chancellor Bright, WR, Knoxville, TN
6. Logan Clark, TE, Piedmont, SC*
7. Emmanuel Balogun, DT, Oshogbo, Nigeria
8. Eli Sammons, QB, Greenup, KY
9. Kerion Martin, S, Charleston, WV
10. Immanuel Bush, DE, Lancaster, SC

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	CUSA	NATIONAL
Scoring	25.8 ppg	8	88
Rushing	193.4 ypg	2	35
Passing	200.4 ypg	10	95
Total	393.8 ypg	7	73
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	25.0 ppg	5	47
Rushing	148.0 ypg	8	56
Passing	231.6 ypg	9	75
Total	379.6 ypg	7	57
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
-2	-0.15	6	78

STAT CORNER

6.73%

Marshall recorded a tackle for a loss on just 6.73 percent of opponents' rushing attempts (sacks excluded), which ranked No. 126 nationally.

OFFENSE Marshall running back Brenden Knox, the 2019 Conference USA Most Valuable Player, will be the focal point of coordinator Tim Cramsey's offense after rushing for 1,387 yards and 11 touchdowns in 2019.

For Knox and the Herd, the best news is right up front, where the team returns four starters and five guys with extensive starting experience along the offensive line. Still, the unit must replace four-year starting center and All-C-USA first-teamer Levi Brown. Senior Alex Salguero assumes that role, but should he have trouble, fellow senior Alex Mollette will shift over from his guard spot to lead the line.

Despite the strong rushing presence returning, Marshall's offense will only go as far as quarterback Isaiah Green takes it. Green struggled with consistency in his second season at the helm of the Herd, especially in bad weather games late in the year. Green needs to improve his 56 percent completion rate and his touchdown-to-interception ratio (15 TDs, 11 INTs in 2019) in his third year as a starter.

Green loses top target Armani Levias, but Xavier Gaines (306 receiving yards last season) moves into Levias' tight end spot while providing versatility in the slot for looks with multiple tight ends. On the outside, wide receivers Broc Thompson and Corey Gammage go into their sophomore years looking to become bigger downfield threats.

DEFENSE Marshall's defense goes into its second season under coordinator Brad Lambert with several spots needing to be filled. The biggest losses came at linebacker, where Omari Cobb and Tyler Brown both graduated. To shore up that level, the Herd secured graduate transfer Brian Cavicante from Delaware State while also signing two juco linebackers.

Up front, bookends Darius Hodge and Koby Cumberlander have game-changing potential, but Marshall has new interior starters in Rodney Croom and Jamare Edwards, both of whom gained valuable experience in 2019. Arak McDuffie is another player who could break into a major role up front.

The secondary brings back nickel back Nazeeh Johnson and safety Micah Abraham but must replace both starting cornerbacks. Steven Gilmore fills one starting spot, while Jaylon McClain-Sapp is the favorite to start opposite him.

SPECIALISTS Marshall must replace its entire kicking operation, with placekicker Justin Rohrwasser, holder Jackson White and long snapper Matthew Beardall all having graduated. Shane Ciucci is expected to secure the kicking spot. Marshall's return presence will be strong with Talik Keaton back as one of the nation's top punt returners. Willie Johnson and Sheldon Evans will handle kickoff return duties. Punter Robert LeFevre is back for his third year of action.

FINAL ANALYSIS On paper, Marshall has the talent to be one of C-USA's top teams. The Herd face a daunting non-conference schedule that includes home games with Pittsburgh and Boise State and road contests against East Carolina and Ohio.

To succeed, Green has to be more consistent and solidify the Herd as a balanced offense. When he does that, the Herd win. When he doesn't, the team struggles. It's that simple.

Especially with a defense that is younger at each level, Green's maturation will make — or break — the 2020 season for Marshall.

Isaiah Green

"They're always as athletic as any team in the conference, and they look a lot like FIU and FAU because of the amount of Florida kids they can bring in."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)				
WR	88	Broc Thompson (So.)	14	Corey Gammage (So.)
WR	**1**	**Willie Johnson (Sr.)**	2	Artie Henry (Sr.)
WR	**9**	**Talik Keaton (So.)**	82	Shadeed Ahmed (So.)
LT	79	Josh Ball (Sr.)	**50**	**Will Ulmer (Sr.)**
LG	**55**	**Alex Mollette (Sr.)**	54	Zack Ferris (So.)
C	78	Alex Salguero (Sr.)	55	Alex Mollette (Sr.)
RG	**62**	**Cain Madden (Sr.)**	68	Dalton Tucker (So.)
RT	**71**	**Tarik Adams (Sr.)**	50	Will Ulmer (Sr.)
TE	11	Xavier Gaines (Sr.)	83	Devin Miller (Jr.)
QB	**17**	**Isaiah Green (Jr.)**	8	Grant Wells (Fr.)
RB	**20**	**Brenden Knox (Jr.)**	5	Sheldon Evans (Jr.)

DEFENSE (4)				Returning Starters in Bold
DE	**44**	**Darius Hodge (Jr.)**	33	Sam Burton (So.)
NT	92	Rodney Croom (Jr.)	15	TJ Johnson (Sr.)
DT	99	Jamare Edwards (Jr.)	38	Arak McDuffie (So.)
DE	56	Koby Cumberlander (Jr.)	46	Owen Porter (So.)
MLB		Brian Cavicante (Sr.)	2	Jaquan Yulee (Sr.)
OLB	**4**	**Tavante Beckett (Sr.)**		Abraham Beauplan (Jr.)
CB	34	Steven Gilmore (Jr.)		Keylin Roach (Jr.)
CB	7	Jaylon McClain-Sapp (Sr.)		Josh Bowers (Jr.)
NB	**13**	**Nazeeh Johnson (Sr.)**	35	E.J. Jackson (So.)
SS	**21**	**Micah Abraham (So.)**		Charles Bell (Fr.)
FS	1	Derrek Pitts (Jr.)	35	E.J. Jackson (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	96	Shane Ciucci (So.)	**KR**	1	Willie Johnson (Sr.)
P	43	Robert LeFevre (Sr.)	**PR**	9	Talik Keaton (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Isaiah Green, 336-189-2,438-11, 15 TDs
Rushing: Brenden Knox, 270 att., 1,387 yds., 11 TDs
Receiving: Willie Johnson, 13 rec., 349 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Tavante Beckett, 121
Sacks: Darius Hodge, 7.0
Interceptions: Steven Gilmore, 2

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Doc Holliday
Record at School: 78-51 (10 years)
Career Record: 78-51 (10 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Tim Cramsey
Defensive Coordinators: Brad Lambert, J.C. Price
Huntington, WV • Joan C. Edwards Stadium (38,016)

Marshall Athletics

MTSU Blue Raiders

National Forecast: **105** · C-USA East Prediction: **5** · Projected Record: **6-6, 4-4 C-USA**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at Duke
Sept.	12	Indiana State
Sept.	19	Virginia Tech
Sept.	26	at Old Dominion
Oct.	3	Western Kentucky
Oct.	10	at FIU
Oct.	17	North Texas
Oct.	24	at Rice
Nov.	7	Charlotte
Nov.	14	at Marshall
Nov.	21	at Connecticut
Nov.	28	Florida Atlantic

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 4-8, 3-5 C-USA

Aug.	31	at Michigan	L	21-40
Sept.	7	Tennessee State	W	45-26
Sept.	14	Duke	L	18-41
Sept.	28	at Iowa	L	3-48
Oct.	5	Marshall	W	24-13
Oct.	12	at Florida Atlantic	L	13-28
Oct.	19	at North Texas	L	30-33
Oct.	26	FIU	W	50-17
Nov.	2	at Charlotte	L	20-34
Nov.	16	Rice	L	28-31
Nov.	23	Old Dominion	W	38-17
Nov.	30	at Western Kentucky	L	26-31

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Devyn Curtis, LB, Brentwood, TN
2. Deidrick Stanley II, ATH, Hollywood, FL
3. Drew Francis, LB, Knoxville, TN
4. Frank Peasant, LB, Pensacola, FL
5. Tyrece Edwards, DE, Knoxville, TN
6. Davon Martin, CB, Orlando, FL
7. James Shellman IV, ATH, Savannah, GA
8. Ralph Mency, DE, Jacksonville, FL
9. Jaylin Lane, WR, Clover, SC
10. Johnathan Butler, LB, Sumter, SC*

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	CUSA	NATIONAL
Scoring	26.3 ppg	7	85
Rushing	171.9 ypg	3	53
Passing	236.4 ypg	6	63
Total	408.3 ypg	5	59
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	29.9 ppg	10	81
Rushing	194.0 ypg	11	101
Passing	265.3 ypg	14	113
Total	459.3 ypg	14	114
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
+3	+0.25	3	43

STAT CORNER

17.57%

The Blue Raiders gained 10 or more yards on 71 of their 404 rushing attempts last season. That 17.57 percent rate led Conference USA and ranked ninth nationally.

OFFENSE Last year, quarterback Asher O'Hara became the second Middle Tennessee quarterback in history to rush for 1,000 yards in a season. Unfortunately, no running backs reached 300 rushing yards, so finding reliable ball carriers is essential. Chaton Mobley and Brad Anderson are veteran backs, but West Virginia transfer Martell Pettaway and Florida State transfer Amir Rasul provide new options.

O'Hara had solid passing numbers (2,616 yards, 20 TDs, eight interceptions), but he needs to go further into his progressions and hit more deep passes. Like the running back competition, there are good numbers at wide receiver but not proven difference-makers. Jarrin Pierce and Jimmy Marshall are steady targets. But the offense needs CJ Windham and Zack Dobson, the team's fastest player, to flourish after missing a combined 10 games due to injuries last season.

Guard Will Gilchrist and tackle Robert Jones are all-league candidates, but the line must steer the ground game.

Offensive coordinator Tony Franklin is accustomed to turning role players into an efficient offense, and he may have to do it again. The Blue Raiders return eight starters, so there is reason for optimism.

DEFENSE The defense was uncommonly bad in 2019. Injuries accounted for some of those struggles, but there are still looming questions. For starters, is there an effective pass rusher? The Blue Raiders notched only 11 sacks in 12 games in 2019, the second fewest in FBS. Redshirt freshman Darius "JuJu" Williams and junior Jordan Ferguson could grow into that role. Both defensive ends sat out last season with injuries. Defensive tackle Rakavian Poydras is the only returning starter on the line.

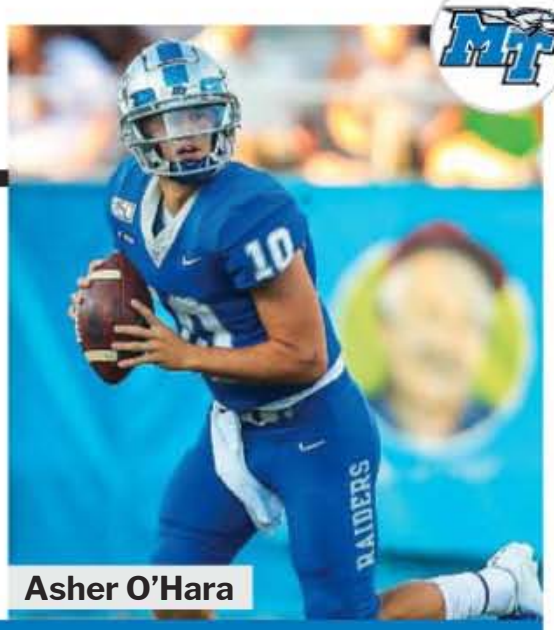
There is also uncertainty at middle linebacker and cornerback. The combination of several factors yielded Conference USA's worst pass defense last season. There are, at least, different ingredients this time around with a younger crop of cornerbacks. Redshirt freshman Quincy Riley may have the most upside.

The safety position touts talent and experience, led by Reed Blankenship. He has been one of C-USA's top defenders over the past three seasons, but he's returning from a broken ankle. Steady senior linebacker DQ Thomas is the top returning tackler with 74 takedowns, including a team-high 12 for a loss.

SPECIALISTS Crews Holt is a proven placekicker. He has made 30-of-39 field goals in his career. Kyle Ulbrich averaged a solid 41.4 yards per punt last season. Middle Tennessee was among the worst FBS teams in kick and punt returns, so expect those roles to be up for grabs.

FINAL ANALYSIS Last season's 4–8 record can't be ignored. On one hand, it was a forgettable season that casts doubt on this year's similar squad. But it also seemed like an exception to the rule, because coach Rick Stockstill had reached bowl eligibility in nine of the previous 10 seasons.

Past results say the Blue Raiders will bounce back in 2020, at least a little. A manageable schedule also supports that assertion. Non-conference games against UConn and Indiana State are winnable. And weaker opponents in the early C-USA schedule provide a chance to carry a winning record into the second half of the season.



Asher O'Hara

"It's hard to say it because Rick (Stockstill) is one of the most respected guys in the business, but there's no juice here. It's stale. The skill positions are underwhelming."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR	24	Zack Dobson (Jr.)	22	DJ England-Chisolm (So.)
WR	**83**	**Jimmy Marshall (Sr.)**	89	Yusuf Ali (Jr.)
WR	**81**	**CJ Windham (Sr.)**	**86**	**Jarrin Pierce (Sr.)**
LT	79	Cole Kirby (Jr.)	74	Steven Losoya III (Fr.)
LG	**66**	**Will Gilchrist (Sr.)**	**61**	**Eric Seay (Jr.)**
C	62	Jordan Palmer (Jr.)	75	Blake Catlett (Sr.)
RG	**65**	**Marcus Greer (So.)**	70	Tyler Falvey (So.)
RT	**64**	**Robert Jones (Sr.)**	59	Dawson Bragg (So.)
QB	**10**	**Asher O'Hara (Jr.)**	16	Chase Cunningham (Jr.)
RB	44	Chaton Mobley (Jr.)	31	Martell Pettaway (Sr.)
HB	41	John Turner (Jr.)	51	Jacob Mahoney (So.)

DEFENSE (3) Returning Starters in Bold

DE	52	JuJu Williams (Fr.)	97	Quindarius Dunnigan (Fr.)
DT	99	Jordan Branch (So.)	92	Ty Nix (Sr.)
DT	**90**	**Rakavian Poydras (Sr.)**	88	Ja'Kerrius Wyatt (Jr.)
DE	91	Jordan Ferguson (Jr.)	49	Jorden Starling (So.)
OLB	**20**	**DQ Thomas (Sr.)**	39	Cain McWilliams (So.)
MLB	43	Brett Shepherd (Sr.)	42	Cody Smith (Jr.)
OLB	26	Wayne Parks (Jr.)	35	Jalen Davis (Fr.)
CB	19	Teldrick Ross (So.)	23	Jalen Jackson (Fr.)
CB	4	Quincy Riley (Fr.)	15	Raheme Fuller (Jr.)
SS	**12**	**Reed Blankenship (Sr.)**	3	Gregory Grate Jr. (Jr.)
FS	17	Kylan Stribling (Sr.)	30	Marvae Myers-Glover (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	18	Crews Holt (Sr.)	**KR**	21	Jayy McDonald (Sr.)
P	48	Kyle Ulbrich (Jr.)	**PR**	86	Jarrin Pierce (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Asher O'Hara, 335-210-2,616-8, 20 TDs
Rushing: Asher O'Hara, 199 att., 1,058 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Jarrin Pierce, 42 rec., 562 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: DQ Thomas, 74
Sacks: DQ Thomas, 2.0
Interceptions: Reed Blankenship, 2

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Rick Stockstill
Record at School: 91-86 (14 years)
Career Record: 91-86 (14 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Tony Franklin
Defensive Coordinator: Scott Shafer
Murfreesboro, TN • Floyd Stadium (30,788)

MTSU Athletics

OLD DOMINION Monarchs

National Forecast: **124** • C-USA East Prediction: **7** • Projected Record: **3-9, 2-6 C-USA**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	Wake Forest
Sept.	12	Hampton
Sept.	19	FIU
Sept.	26	Middle Tennessee
Oct.	3	at Connecticut
Oct.	17	at UTSA
Oct.	24	Virginia
Oct.	31	at Western Kentucky
Nov.	7	UAB
Nov.	14	at Charlotte
Nov.	21	at Florida Atlantic
Nov.	28	Marshall

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 1-11, 0-8 C-USA

Aug.	31	Norfolk State	W	24-21
Sept.	7	at Virginia Tech	L	17-31
Sept.	21	at Virginia	L	17-28
Sept.	28	East Carolina	L	21-24
Oct.	5	Western Kentucky	L	3-20
Oct.	12	at Marshall	L	17-31
Oct.	19	at UAB	L	14-38
Oct.	26	Florida Atlantic	L	3-41
Nov.	2	at FIU	L	17-24
Nov.	9	UTSA	L	23-24
Nov.	23	at Middle Tennessee	L	17-38
Nov.	30	Charlotte	L	22-38

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. LaMareon James, CB, Chesapeake, VA
2. Santana Saunders, OT, Upper Marlboro, MD
3. Adrian Spellman, DE, Elizabeth City, NC
4. Keyshawn Hunter, DT, Washington, DC
5. Tyrik McDaniel, ATH, Irmo, SC
6. Levi Wentz, CB, Gibsonia, PA
7. Malcolm Britt, LB, Chesapeake, VA
8. Amorie Morrison, DE, Virginia Beach, VA
9. Reese Poffenbarger, QB, Middletown, MD
10. Chazz Wallace, DT, Glenarden, MD

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	CUSA	NATIONAL
Scoring	16.3 ppg	14	127
Rushing	97.3 ypg	14	124
Passing	176.4 ypg	13	112
Total	273.8 ypg	14	128
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	29.8 ppg	9	79
Rushing	147.6 ypg	7	55
Passing	223.5 ypg	6	61
Total	371.1 ypg	4	46
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
-1	-0.08	5	75

STAT CORNER

36.84%

Old Dominion made 38 trips to the red zone in 2019 but scored a touchdown only 14 times. That 36.84 percent TD rate in the red zone was the worst in the country.

OFFENSE With a new coach and the entirety of spring practice wiped out, Old Dominion heads into the 2020 season with a remarkably high number of unknowns. And that includes the quarterback position, where the Monarchs are looking for improvement after logging just five passing TDs last season. Hayden Wolff returns after starting three of the Monarchs' final four games and averaging 245.7 yards through the air. But Wolff, who will be a redshirt freshman, could have competition from veterans Stone Smartt, Steven Williams and Messiah deWeaver, who have all had turns as the Monarchs' starter.

New head coach Ricky Rahne arrives after six years on the staff at Penn State, the last two as offensive coordinator. He brings a no-huddle, spread offense that will be a departure from the more deliberate, ground-based scheme from previous seasons.

Rahne will have the luxury of an experienced offensive line led by senior center Isaac Weaver, a three-year starter and program pillar, and standout sophomore tackle Nick Saldiveri. "I'm excited about the offensive line in general," Rahne says. "We've got some good size. I loved their attitude all winter. I'm excited about how those guys have approached everything."

The Monarchs bring back plenty of experienced offensive contributors, including sophomore receiver Aaron Moore, who led the team in receiving yards and touchdowns last season. The Monarchs coaches see big things in sure-handed receiver Eric Kumah and running back Lala Davis, who shared the rushing load with the graduated Kesean Strong.

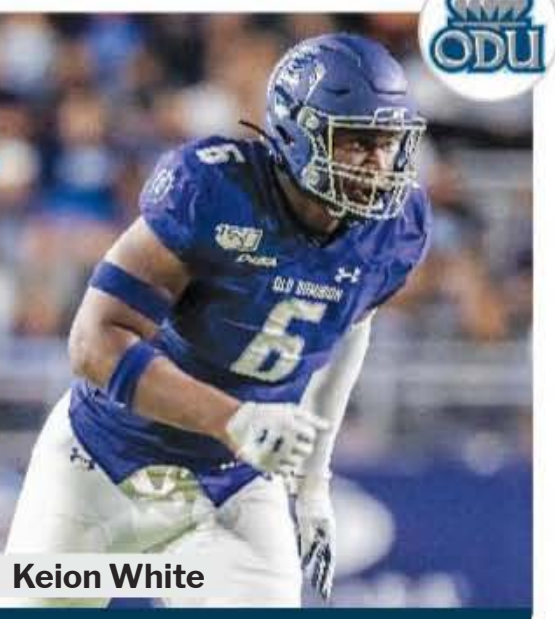
DEFENSE With nine starters back, the Monarchs should have plenty of playmakers, such as linebackers Lawrence Garner and Jordan Young and cornerback Geronda Hall, last season's top three tacklers. Cornerback Kaleb Ford-Dement also returns after being named to the All-C-USA second team.

Rahne sees plenty of potential in the defensive line, where tackles Juwan Ross and Jeremy Meiser will be tough tone-setters and defensive ends Keion White, an All-C-USA second-teamer, and Marcus Haynes return. Also returning at defensive end is Derek Wilder, a redshirt senior and son of former coach Bobby Wilder.

Rahne feels good about Old Dominion's top talent on defense but is concerned about depth. "We have a lot of guys who have played football for us as frontline starters, but in today's day and age, you can't play every play on the defensive side of the ball. You'll get worn out and exposed physically," he says. "We need to develop more depth."

SPECIALISTS The Monarchs have a degree of stability in special teams with Nick Rice, who connected on 75 percent of his field goals last season, returning at kicker and Blake Watson, who averaged 26.4 yards per kickoff return, also back. Look for freshman punter Ethan Duane, who comes to Old Dominion from Australia, to slide into a starting role.

FINAL ANALYSIS Rahne takes over preaching an atmosphere of encouragement and positivity. But with eight games against teams that went to bowls last season, including a home game against Virginia, that sunny vibe could be challenged as the Monarchs face a steep climb back.



Keion White

"There's lots of talk about this job's potential. They need to go whole hog on recruiting their backyard. This could be a great team one day."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (5)				
WR	16	Aaron Moore (So.)	86	Darius Savedge (So.)
WR	9	Eric Kumah (Sr.)	83	Jake Herslow (Sr.)
WR	88	Nigel Fitzgerald (So.)	19	Cornell Hendrick Jr. (So.)
LT	59	James Fagan (Sr.)	**53**	**Khadere Kounta (So.)**
LG	61	Andrew Lawson (Sr.)	68	Brandon Ruff (Fr.)
C	**71**	**Isaac Weaver (Sr.)**	75	Diego Cervantes (Sr.)
RG	**65**	**Cameron Muller (Jr.)**	78	Teagan McDonald (Fr.)
RT	**64**	**Nick Saldiveri (So.)**	77	Kyle Young (So.)
TE	84	Donta Anthony Jr. (Jr.)	89	Marcus Joyner (Sr.)
QB	11	Hayden Wolff (Fr.)	**4**	**Stone Smartt (Sr.)**
RB	12	Lala Davis (So.)	28	Blake Watson (So.)

DEFENSE (9)				Returning Starters in Bold
DE	**6**	**Keion White (Jr.)**	97	Marcus Haynes (Jr.)
DT	**54**	**Jeremy Meiser (Sr.)**	55	Cameron Washington (Jr.)
DT	**52**	**Juwan Ross (Sr.)**	69	Ty-Kee McCullers (Sr.)
DE	**42**	**Derek Wilder (Sr.)**	99	James Valle III (Jr.)
MLB	**34**	**Lawrence Garner (Sr.)**	45	Demetrius Stitmon (Sr.)
OLB	**3**	**Jordan Young (Sr.)**	48	Estefano Feliciano Jr. (Jr.)
CB	1	Lance Boykin (Jr.)	5	Will Brocchini (Sr.)
CB	**22**	**Kaleb Ford-Dement (Jr.)**		LaMareon James (Fr.)
NB	**23**	**Geronda Hall (Jr.)**	25	Prince Ajegwu (Sr.)
SS	**7**	**Harrell Blackmon (Sr.)**	24	Joe Joe Headen (Sr.)
FS	14	Justinn Richardson (Jr.)	21	R'Tarriun Johnson (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	98	Nick Rice (Sr.)	**KR**	28	Blake Watson (So.)
P	20	Ethan Duane (Fr.)	**PR**	19	Cornell Hendrick Jr. (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Stone Smartt, 177-101-1,006-6, 1 TD
Rushing: Lala Davis, 79 att., 337 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Aaron Moore, 26 rec., 389 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Lawrence Garner, 111
Sacks: 3 tied with 3.5
Interceptions: Kaleb Ford-Dement, Geronda Hall, 2

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Ricky Rahne
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Kirk Campbell
Defensive Coordinator: Blake Seiler
Norfolk, VA • S.B. Ballard Stadium (22,480)

Old Dominion Athletics

WKU Hilltoppers

National Forecast: **72** · C-USA East Prediction: **1** · Projected Record: **8-5, 6-2 C-USA**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Chattanooga
Sept.	12	at Indiana
Sept.	19	Liberty
Sept.	26	at Louisville
Oct.	3	at Middle Tennessee
Oct.	10	Marshall
Oct.	17	at UAB
Oct.	31	Old Dominion
Nov.	7	at Florida Atlantic
Nov.	14	Southern Miss
Nov.	21	FIU
Nov.	28	at Charlotte

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 9-4, 6-2 C-USA

Aug.	29	Central Arkansas	L	28-35
Sept.	7	at FIU	W	20-14
Sept.	14	Louisville #	L	21-38
Sept.	28	UAB	W	20-13
Oct.	5	at Old Dominion	W	20-3
Oct.	12	Army	W	17-8
Oct.	19	Charlotte	W	30-14
Oct.	26	at Marshall	L	23-26
Nov.	2	Florida Atlantic	L	24-35
Nov.	9	at Arkansas	W	45-19
Nov.	23	at Southern Miss	W	28-10
Nov.	30	Middle Tennessee	W	31-26
Dec.	30	vs. Western Mich. %	W	23-20

#Nashville, TN %First Responder Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Quantavious Leslie, OG, Rome, GA
2. JaQues Evans, ATH, Dublin, GA
3. David Ndukwe, DT, Lithonia, GA
4. Dakota Thomas, WR, Snellville, GA
5. Kendrick Simpkins, S, Montgomery, AL
6. Dominique Bradshaw, CB, Grand Prairie, TX*
7. Barry Wagner, WR, Orlando, FL
8. Craig Burt Jr., WR, Columbus, OH*
9. Nicholas Days, LB, Miami, FL*
10. Aaron Key, LB, Tucker, GA

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	CUSA	NATIONAL
Scoring	25.4 ppg	9	91
Rushing	128.5 ypg	11	109
Passing	259.3 ypg	5	40
Total	387.8 ypg	8	84
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	20.1 ppg	1	22
Rushing	135.5 ypg	4	34
Passing	199.9 ypg	4	28
Total	335.5 ypg	2	24
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
-6	-0.46	10	100

STAT CORNER

0.313

WKU surrendered 0.313 points per snap last season, which ranked No. 25 in the nation and second best in Conference USA.

OFFENSE Gaej Walker started his career as a defensive back but moved over to running back last season and carved out a nice role behind a veteran offensive line. The Hilltoppers return four linemen (Cole Spencer, Tyler Witt, Seth Joest and Jordan Meredith) who have combined for 114 career starts and helped push Walker to 1,208 rushing yards on a 5.0 yards-per-carry average. That experience will be important with WKU replacing quarterback Ty Storey and 1,000-yard receiver Lucky Jackson.

And there lies the biggest concern. Steven Duncan was expected to win an open competition and resume the starting quarterback role he held to begin the 2019 season before an injury, but the redshirt junior entered the transfer portal in April. That leaves Davis Shanley and Kevaris Thomas as the only two quarterbacks with experience, albeit very little.

Wide receiver Jahcour Pearson and tight end Joshua Simon combined for 1,234 receiving yards and will be reliable targets. Junior college wide receiver additions Mitchell Tinsley and Craig Burt are also expected to make immediate impacts.

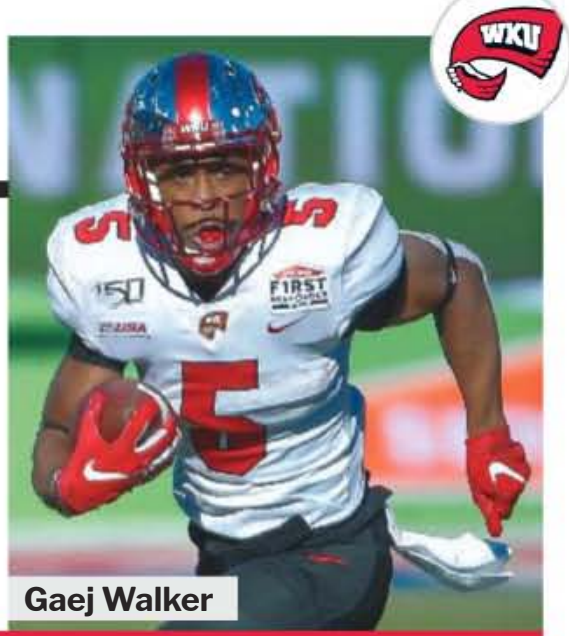
DEFENSE DeAngelo Malone returns as the Conference USA Defensive Player of the Year after 11.5 sacks and 21 tackles for a loss. He leads a defense that returns its top six tacklers and finished 22nd in the nation in scoring defense (20.1 ppg). That defense also finished in the top 20 nationally in third-down defense (seventh, 29.7 percent) and red zone defense (t-19th, 75.8 percent). Flanking Malone is an equally disruptive end in Juwuan Jones, who has 12 career sacks entering his junior year. Nickel back Ta'Corian Darden and defensive tackle Jaylon George are the only seniors to replace in fourth-year defensive coordinator Clayton White's unit.

Linebacker Kyle Bailey (109 tackles) and safety Devon Key (93 tackles) return, along with Malone, as the team's top tacklers. Trae Meadows and Dionte Ruffin are the returning cornerbacks, but there will be competition this fall with the addition of junior college defensive backs John Blunt Jr. and Dominique Bradshaw.

SPECIALISTS Cory Munson ended a wild freshman season as WKU's starting placekicker with a 52-yard walk-off game-winner to defeat Western Michigan in the First Responder Bowl. He was otherwise inconsistent with a 60.7 percent field-goal rate, but he sent half of his kickoffs for touchbacks. Punter John Haggerty averaged 45.9 yards per punt as a junior. Garland LaFrance and Jacquez Sloan split kickoff return duties.

FINAL ANALYSIS Tyson Helton, the reigning C-USA Coach of the Year, hopes his veteran team that is slated to start 17 seniors can help rekindle the high-scoring offense WKU saw when he was previously the offensive coordinator in 2014 and 2015. His first season, which included a dominant road win at Arkansas, was a step in the right direction. This year, the quarterback battle is obviously the most important decision facing the program.

"Whoever the quarterback is, we need him to feel comfortable in the fact that if I just manage the offense and my job, we're a talented enough football team and good enough on defense that we should be able to win our fair share of football games," Helton says. "Whoever we play, that's an advantage to have."



Gaej Walker

"This was maybe the best job by any first-year coach in the nation. Keeping the defensive staff was huge. They were as good on that side as anyone in our league."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)				
WR	**7**	**Jahcour Pearson (Sr.)**	19	Dayton Wade (So.)
WR	2	Jacquez Sloan (Sr.)	8	Mitchell Tinsley (Jr.)
WR	9	Xavier Lane (Sr.)	85	Terez Traynor (So.)
LT	**70**	**Cole Spencer (Jr.)**	73	Wes Dorsey (So.)
LG	**74**	**Tyler Witt (Sr.)**	51	Rusty Staats (So.)
C	**67**	**Seth Joest (Sr.)**	71	Garrett Nickelson (Jr.)
RG	**61**	**Jordan Meredith (Sr.)**	55	Daylen Powell (So.)
RT	77	Mason Brooks (Jr.)	75	Gunner Britton (So.)
TE	6	Joshua Simon (So.)		Spencer Owens (Jr.)
QB	12	Davis Shanley (Jr.)	8	Kevaris Thomas (So.)
RB	**5**	**Gaej Walker (Sr.)**	3	Jakairi Moses (Jr.)

DEFENSE (9)		Returning Starters in Bold		
DE	**10**	**DeAngelo Malone (Sr.)**	11	Jaden Hunter (Jr.)
DT	53	Jeremy Darvin (Sr.)	98	Marcus Bragg (Sr.)
DT	**99**	**Jalen Madden (Sr.)**	50	Ricky Barber (So.)
DE	**34**	**Juwuan Jones (Jr.)**	55	Dante Walker (So.)
LB	**36**	**Kyle Bailey (Sr.)**	52	Damon Lowe (Sr.)
LB	**30**	**Clay Davis (Sr.)**	32	Eli Brown (Sr.)
CB	24	Roger Cray (Sr.)	17	Dominique Bradshaw (Jr.)
CB	**26**	**Dionte Ruffin (Sr.)**	12	John Blunt Jr. (So.)
NB	**7**	**Trae Meadows (Sr.)**	27	Omari Alexander (Sr.)
S	**31**	**Antwon Kincade (Sr.)**	6	T.J. Springer (So.)
S	**2**	**Devon Key (Sr.)**	12	A.J. Brathwaite Jr. (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	46	Cory Munson (So.)	**KR**	2	Jacquez Sloan (Sr.)
P	47	John Haggerty (Sr.)	**PR**	24	Roger Cray (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Kevaris Thomas, 1-1-6-0, 0 TDs
Rushing: Gaej Walker, 241 att., 1,208 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Jahcour Pearson, 76 rec., 804 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Kyle Bailey, 109
Sacks: DeAngelo Malone, 11.5
Interceptions: Kyle Bailey, 3

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Tyson Helton
Record at School: 9-4 (1 year)
Career Record: 9-4 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinators: Ryan Aplin, Bryan Ellis
Defensive Coordinators: Maurice Crum, Clayton White
Bowling Green, KY • Houchens Industries-L.T. Smith Stadium (22,113)

Steve Roberts/WKU Athletics

LOUISIANA TECH Bulldogs

National Forecast: **80** · C-USA West Prediction: **3** · Projected Record: **7-5, 5-3 C-USA**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at UNLV
Sept.	12	at Southern Miss
Sept.	19	Prairie View A&M
Sept.	26	at Baylor
Oct.	10	UTEP
Oct.	17	Marshall
Oct.	24	at UTSA
Oct.	31	UAB
Nov.	7	at North Texas
Nov.	14	Rice
Nov.	21	at Vanderbilt
Nov.	28	at FIU

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 10-3, 6-2 C-USA

Sept.	1	at Texas	L	14-45
Sept.	7	Grambling State	W	20-14
Sept.	14	at Bowling Green	W	35-7
Sept.	20	FIU	W	43-31
Sept.	28	at Rice (ot)	W	23-20
Oct.	12	Massachusetts	W	69-21
Oct.	19	Southern Miss	W	45-30
Oct.	26	at UTEP	W	42-21
Nov.	9	North Texas	W	52-17
Nov.	15	at Marshall	L	10-31
Nov.	23	at UAB	L	14-20
Nov.	30	UTSA	W	41-27
Dec.	26	vs. Miami #	W	14-0

#Independence Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Cedric Woods, CB, Monroe, LA
2. Jamison Kelly, S, Columbia, MS
3. Kershawn Fisher, LB, Slidell, LA
4. Caleb Holstein, QB, Lafayette, LA
5. Harlan Dixon, RB, Slidell, LA
6. Dontrell Cobbs, DT, West Monroe, LA
7. JD Head, QB, Pearland, TX
8. CJ McWilliams, ATH, Haughton, LA
9. Xavier Guy, OG, Monroe, LA*
10. Keveion'ta Spears, DE, Baton Rouge, LA

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	CUSA	NATIONAL
Scoring	32.5 ppg	2	35
Rushing	168.4 ypg	4	57
Passing	268.5 ypg	4	32
Total	436.8 ypg	2	35
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	21.8 ppg	3	30
Rushing	137.2 ypg	5	37
Passing	240.5 ypg	12	90
Total	377.7 ypg	6	53
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
+7	+0.54	2	26

STAT CORNER

35.29%

In 51 red zone situations, the Bulldogs kept opponents off the scoreboard altogether 35.29% of the time, best in the nation.

OFFENSE The offense took a big leap forward in 2019, improving its scoring average by nearly eight points per game compared to 2018 and by 11 points in conference games. Sustaining that trajectory with a new quarterback, however, will be a challenge. Outgoing QB J'Mar Smith was a three-year starter and first-team All-C-USA pick as a senior and ended his career on a 10-game winning streak. His likely replacement, Aaron Allen, struggled in relief last November, overseeing a pair of low-scoring, division-deciding losses at Marshall and UAB while Smith served a two-game suspension. Now a sophomore, Allen will have to fend off challenges from redshirt freshman Jakson Thomson and grad transfer Luke Anthony, a two-year starter at FCS Abilene Christian.

Given a halfway competent quarterback, the rest of the lineup is stable enough to match last year's gains. Senior RB Justin Henderson accounted for more than 1,200 yards from scrimmage and a conference-high 16 touchdowns despite only emerging as the feature back at midseason. The receiving corps returns five of the top six targets, led by senior Adrian Hardy. Seniors Willie Allen (a former LSU signee) and Kody Russey are pillars of a rebuilding O-line, and they're joined by LSU transfer Donavaughn Campbell. The new offensive coordinator, Joe Sloan, has been on staff since 2013.

DEFENSE The defense's issues go deeper, primarily due to attrition: Nine of last year's top dozen tacklers are gone, leaving only two full-time starters — defensive ends Willie Baker and Milton Williams — and flashing red "vacancy" signs at almost every other position. Even the veterans will be digesting new roles under incoming coordinator David Blackwell, who's expected to shift from a 3-4 base to a 4-3.

That move raises concerns about the interior D-line, which is suddenly thin in every sense; few tackle-sized bodies return, only one of whom (sophomore D.J. Jackson) saw the field in 2019 and none of whom are listed at 300 pounds. Arguably the biggest concern, though, is the secondary, a reliable strength over the past three years, which lost all five 2019 starters — chief among them NFL-bound cornerback Amik Robertson, a three-time all-conference pick who ranks among the most decorated defenders in school history. Junior college signees Jemaurian Jones and Dallas Taylor-Cortez will be in the running to fill the vacant corner slots immediately.

SPECIALISTS All-C-USA kicker Bailey Hale is gone; the competition to replace him will come down to redshirt freshman Jacob Barnes and senior Brady Farlow, who has handled punting duties for most of the past three years but has yet to attempt a field goal or extra point. The primary return men, Wayne Toussant and Davon "Smoke" Harris, both return, but they might find those positions up for grabs in a bid for more juice.

FINAL ANALYSIS Even in a rebuilding year, which 2020 figures to be, head coach Skip Holtz has built a program that can take winning records and bowl games for granted. Barring a sustained meltdown at quarterback and/or on defense, that should hold true again. But another run at the conference crown, which would be the Bulldogs' first since joining C-USA in 2013, is probably going to have to wait.

Justin Henderson

"There's no one better in the league at running a program than Skip (Holtz). Tech is in a lot of the ways the model for all the other programs at our level."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**6**	**Adrian Hardy (Sr.)**	26	Jawaun Johnson (Fr.)
WR	**13**	**Isaiah Graham (Sr.)**	89	Tahj Magee (So.)
WR	81	Cee Jay Powell (Sr.)	19	Smoke Harris (So.)
WR	**80**	**Griffin Hebert (Jr.)**	16	Zach Cousar (Sr.)
LT	**73**	**Willie Allen (Sr.)**		Michael Gause (Jr.)
LG	64	Joshua Mote (Jr.)		Xavier Guy (Jr.)
C	**65**	**Kody Russey (Sr.)**	62	Abraham Delfin (Jr.)
RG		Donavaughn Campbell (Jr.)	72	Christian Henderson (So.)
RT	51	Antawn Lewis (Jr.)	76	Biron Rossell (So.)
QB	3	Aaron Allen (So.)		Luke Anthony (Sr.)
RB	**33**	**Justin Henderson (Sr.)**	22	Israel Tucker (Sr.)

DEFENSE (2) — Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**85**	**Willie Baker (Sr.)**	43	Tristan Allen (Jr.)
DT	52	D.J. Jackson (So.)	44	Keivie Rose (Fr.)
DT	99	Malik Wells (Jr.)	50	Chris Spence (Sr.)
DE	**97**	**Milton Williams (Jr.)**	91	Steven Shaw (So.)
OLB	46	Ezekiel Barnett (Sr.)	8	Brandon Floyd (Sr.)
MLB	3	Trey Baldwin (Sr.)	54	Allen Walker (Fr.)
OLB	48	Alex Zayed (Sr.)	42	Maki Carabin (Fr.)
CB	18	Zach Hannibal (Sr.)	38	Charvis Thornton (Fr.)
CB	17	Brodrick Calhoun (So.)		Jemaurian Jones (So.)
S	25	Bee Jay Williamson (So.)	49	Isaiah Windmon (So.)
S		Khalil Ladler (Sr.)	7	Jaiden Cole (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	98	Jacob Barnes (Fr.)	**KR**	86	Wayne Toussant (So.)
P	29	Brady Farlow (Sr.)	**PR**	19	Smoke Harris (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Aaron Allen, 75-43-446-1, 3 TDs
Rushing: Justin Henderson, 188 att., 1,062 yds., 15 TDs
Receiving: Griffin Hebert, 30 rec., 537 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Ezekiel Barnett, Milton Williams, 59
Sacks: Milton Williams, 5.5
Interceptions: Trey Baldwin, Ezekiel Barnett, 1

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Skip Holtz
Record at School: 56-36 (7 years)
Career Record: 144-107 (20 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Joe Sloan
Defensive Coordinator: David Blackwell
Ruston, LA • Joe Aillet Stadium (28,019)

Louisiana Tech Athletics

NORTH TEXAS Mean Green

National Forecast: **114** · C-USA West Prediction: **5** · Projected Record: **4-8, 3-5 C-USA**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Houston Baptist
Sept.	12	at Texas A&M
Sept.	19	SMU
Sept.	26	at Houston
Oct.	3	Southern Miss
Oct.	10	Charlotte
Oct.	17	at Middle Tennessee
Oct.	31	at UTEP
Nov.	7	Louisiana Tech
Nov.	14	at UAB
Nov.	21	Rice
Nov.	28	at UTSA

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 4-8, 3-5 C-USA

Aug.	31	Abilene Christian	W	51-31
Sept.	7	at SMU	L	27-49
Sept.	14	at California	L	17-23
Sept.	21	UTSA	W	45-3
Sept.	28	Houston	L	25-46
Oct.	12	at Southern Miss	L	27-45
Oct.	19	Middle Tennessee	W	33-30
Oct.	26	at Charlotte	L	38-39
Nov.	2	UTEP	W	52-26
Nov.	9	at Louisiana Tech	L	17-52
Nov.	23	at Rice	L	14-20
Nov.	30	UAB	L	21-26

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Erik Williams, OT, Lubbock, TX
2. Davontae McCrae, DE, Miami, FL*
3. Detraveon Brown, WR, Shreveport, LA
4. Jacobi Johnson, LB, Oklahoma City, OK
5. Jonathan Pickett, DE, Las Vegas, NV
6. Jordan Brown, LB, Huntsville, TX
7. Jake Roberts, TE, Norman, OK
8. Garnett Burke, S, Garland, TX
9. Kade Bond, OG, Magnolia, TX
10. Christian Lee, TE, Friendswood, TX

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	CUSA	NATIONAL
Scoring	30.6 ppg	3	52
Rushing	135.3 ypg	10	99
Passing	283.3 ypg	2	27
Total	418.6 ypg	3	54
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	32.5 ppg	12	105
Rushing	188.6 ypg	9	95
Passing	222.3 ypg	5	57
Total	410.9 ypg	11	81
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
-6	-0.50	11	103

STAT CORNER

0.99%

Only three FBS defenses failed to intercept at least 1.0 percent of their opponents' passes last season. North Texas (0.99 percent) was one.

OFFENSE Mason Fine's big cleats at quarterback will be difficult to fill. Fine finished his career in 2019 as the NCAA's active passing leader with 12,505 yards. North Texas is left with former minor league baseball player Austin Aune and 2019 backup Jason Bean. Neither is a sure bet.

Aune gave up on baseball after six seasons in the Yankees farm system, and he's trying to revive his college football prospects. He completed 4-of-5 passes with one TD last season, and he will turn 27 in September. Bean was 22-of-35 passing with three TDs and three interceptions, and he boasts some mobility. Both may get their chance to play after an offseason of limited practice.

There's talent and depth at running back with the return of Tre Siggers (853 rushing yards, six TDs in 2019) and former All-Conference USA selection DeAndre Torrey (977 yards, 15 TDs in 2018). Wide receivers Jaelon Darden (736 receiving yards, 12 TDs) and Jyaire Shorter (473 yards, nine TDs) and tight end Jason Pirtle are proven targets.

But the offensive line must improve for the ground game to move and for a new quarterback to develop. Guard Manase Mose and tackle Jacob Brammer are returning starters. A mixture of young players and junior college transfers must fill the remaining spots.

DEFENSE After eight seasons at Kansas, Clint Bowen returns to North Texas as defensive coordinator, a role he had in 2011. A big question is whether he will keep North Texas in its 3-3-5 scheme or change to a 4-3. He inherits playmaking linebackers KD Davis (88 tackles, seven for a loss) and Tyreke Davis (80 tackles, 14 for a loss) and a steady interior lineman in Dion Novil (61 tackles, 13 for a loss).

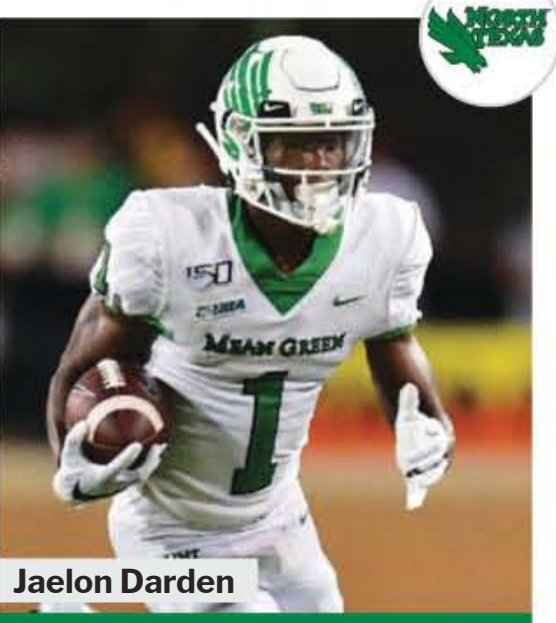
But more disruptive defenders are needed up front. Junior college transfer Davontae McCrae may be the best hope. If not, a defense intended to be aggressive will lack bite, and the secondary will suffer from the lack of a pass rush.

Last season, North Texas had four interceptions, tied for the fewest in FBS. Safety Makyle Sanders and cornerback Cam Johnson both return. But depth is needed, and Bowen may have to shake up positions to find the best combination.

SPECIALISTS Ethan Mooney is among the team's most reliable weapons. He made 16-of-20 field goals last season, including 12-of-13 inside 40 yards. Deion Hair-Griffin is a home-run threat as an all-conference kick returner. Kansas State transfer Bernardo Rodriguez likely will take over at punter.

FINAL ANALYSIS Coach Seth Littrell made three bowls in his first three seasons and landed a contract extension through 2023. But then North Texas dropped to a 4–8 record in 2019 and approaches this season with holes in the lineup. This is a critical season, and Littrell knows it. He fired both coordinators and reportedly plans to call offensive plays himself.

To get to bowl eligibility, North Texas must weather a difficult first half of the schedule. It could lose three in a row against Texas A&M, SMU and Houston. And then it faces Southern Miss and Charlotte, both 2019 bowl teams, to open Conference USA play. To avoid a slow start and also win late, North Texas must find an effective quarterback, establish a defensive identity and regain the swagger it had two years ago.



Jaelon Darden

"They've been so good at changing it up on defenses in our conference. This is a balanced type of offensive league, then they come in and hit you with 40 or 50 throws."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)				
WR	**16**	**Jyaire Shorter (So.)**	14	Greg White (Jr.)
WR	**1**	**Jaelon Darden (Sr.)**	24	Roderic Burns (So.)
WR	14	Greg White (Jr.)	82	Deion Hair-Griffin (Sr.)
LT		Teeshaun Turpin (Jr.)	71	Brian Parish (Jr.)
LG	64	Anterrious Gray (Jr.)	73	Cole Brown (So.)
C	65	Chad Hickson (Sr.)	52	Dane Jackson (Fr.)
RG	**72**	**Manase Mose (Jr.)**	78	Daizion Carroll (So.)
RT	**56**	**Jacob Brammer (Jr.)**	68	Daxton Byers (Fr.)
TE	**88**	**Jason Pirtle (Sr.)**	34	Kyleb Howell (Sr.)
QB	2	Austin Aune (So.)	5	Jason Bean (So.)
RB	**15**	**Tre Siggers (Jr.)**	3	DeAndre Torrey (Sr.)
DEFENSE (5)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	93	Caleb Colvin (Sr.)	44	Jimmy Walker (Fr.)
NT	**97**	**Dion Novil (Sr.)**	91	Dayton LeBlanc (So.)
DE	2	Davontae McCrae (So.)	54	Asher Frow (Sr.)
JACK	32	Joe Ozougwu (Sr.)	38	Hayden Harrison (Sr.)
MLB	**5**	**Tyreke Davis (Sr.)**	21	Kevin Wood (So.)
OLB	**23**	**KD Davis (Jr.)**	30	Larry Nixon III (So.)
CB	17	DeShawn Gaddie (So.)	24	Quinn Whitlock (Jr.)
CB	**11**	**Cam Johnson (Sr.)**		Tavorice Weaver (Fr.)
NB	31	Jaxon Gibbs (So.)	46	Javier Neal (So.)
S	**10**	**Makyle Sanders (Sr.)**	26	Alex Morris (Jr.)
S	22	Keelan Crosby (So.)	19	Leandre Davis (So.)
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	47	Ethan Mooney (Jr.)	**KR** 82	Deion Hair-Griffin (Sr.)
P	32	Bernardo Rodriguez (Jr.)	**PR** 1	Jaelon Darden (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jason Bean, 35-22-176-3, 3 TDs
Rushing: Tre Siggers, 152 att., 853 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Jaelon Darden, 76 rec., 736 yds., 12 TDs
Tackles: KD Davis, 88
Sacks: Tyreke Davis, 4.5
Interceptions: Makyle Sanders, 1

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Seth Littrell
Record at School: 27-25 (4 years)
Career Record: 27-25 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Seth Littrell
Defensive Coordinator: Clint Bowen
Denton, TX • Apogee Stadium (30,850)

Manny Flores

RICE Owls

National Forecast: **113** • C-USA West Prediction: **4** • Projected Record: **5-7, 4-4 C-USA**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3	at Houston
Sept.	12	Army
Sept.	19	LSU #
Sept.	26	Lamar
Oct.	3	at Marshall
Oct.	10	UAB
Oct.	24	Middle Tennessee
Oct.	31	at Southern Miss
Nov.	7	UTSA
Nov.	14	at Louisiana Tech
Nov.	21	at North Texas
Nov.	28	UTEP

#NRG Stadium

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 3-9, 3-5 C-USA

Aug.	30	at Army	L	7-14
Sept.	7	Wake Forest	L	21-41
Sept.	15	Texas	L	13-48
Sept.	21	Baylor	L	13-21
Sept.	28	Louisiana Tech (ot)	L	20-23
Oct.	5	at UAB	L	20-35
Oct.	19	at UTSA	L	27-31
Oct.	26	Southern Miss	L	6-20
Nov.	2	Marshall	L	7-20
Nov.	16	at Middle Tennessee	W	31-28
Nov.	23	North Texas	W	20-14
Nov.	30	at UTEP	W	30-16

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Gabe Taylor, S, Miami, FL
2. Sean Fresch, ATH, Austin, TX
3. Plae Wyatt, S, McKinney, TX
4. Jalen Reeves, LB, Fort Lauderdale, FL
5. Braedon Nutter, DT, Tomball, TX
6. Khalan Griffin, ATH, Tyler, TX
7. Michael Leone, OT, Princeton, NJ
8. Trey Phillippi, OT, Montgomery, TX
9. Adam Sheriff, OT, Prosper, TX*
10. Nate Kamper, TE, Killeen, TX

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	CUSA	NATIONAL
Scoring	17.9 ppg	13	123
Rushing	128.2 ypg	12	110
Passing	166.0 ypg	14	118
Total	294.2 ypg	13	125
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	25.9 ppg	6	49
Rushing	138.3 ypg	6	41
Passing	241.9 ypg	13	91
Total	380.3 ypg	8	58
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
-5	-0.42	9	97

STAT CORNER

9.01%

Rice gained at least 10 rushing yards on just 39 of its 433 carries last season, a rate of 9.01 percent that ranked last in C-USA.

OFFENSE The quarterback room was crowded with seven candidates in the spring, as Rice held open tryouts to shore up a position that has failed to meet expectations the past couple of seasons. A final decision is not expected until preseason camp, but after six spring sessions, third-year head coach Mike Bloomgren said Mike Collins and TJ McMahon would enter as 1A and 1B on the depth chart.

To fit his preferred run-based offense, Bloomgren would like a 20-plus carries per game back to lean on. The likely choice is Juma Otoviano, who battled injuries all last season but turned a corner in the spring. Ari Broussard and Cameron Montgomery, who ran a 10.4 100 in high school, are also options.

Two of C-USA's most productive receivers return in Bradley Rozner (55 catches for 770 yards and five touchdowns) and Austin Trammell (60 catches for 726 yards and four TDs). Incoming freshman Andrew Mason, who runs a 4.3 40-yard dash, could compete for early playing time.

An offensive line that must replace three starters is anchored by left tackle Clay Servin and right guard Shea Baker. Jovaun Woolford, an All-Patriot League selection and grad transfer from Colgate, will challenge for the right tackle job.

Brendan Suckley started the last eight games, as the Owls use a fullback on 40-50 percent of plays.

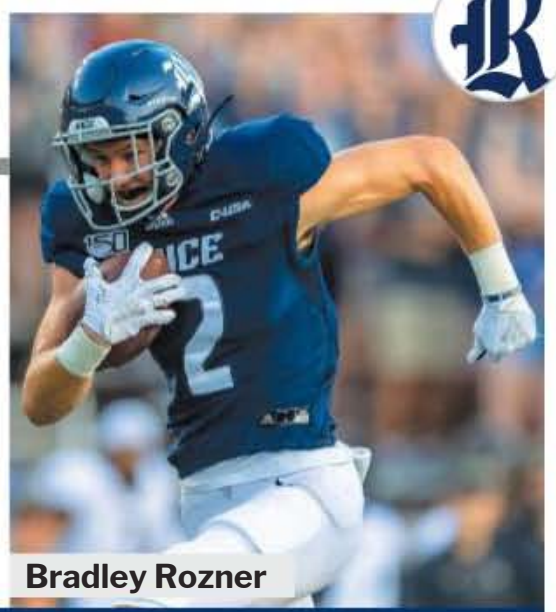
DEFENSE The Owls expect to take a big step with the return of 10 starters and 19 of 22 on the two-deep. The strength of the unit should be at linebacker with Blaze Alldredge and Antonio Montero, who combined for 185 tackles last season. Alldredge tied for second nationally with 21.5 tackles for a loss.

Up front, nose tackle De'Braylon Carroll is a "homewrecker," according to Bloomgren, and Elijah Garcia started the final 10 games. Trey Schuman is back after dealing with injuries, while rush ends Kenneth Orji and Kebreyun Page "play violent and fast." Rice held opponents to 138.3 rushing yards per game, its best performance since 2001.

The Owls will often play in a 4-2-5 alignment to showcase speed and a physical style. Treshawn Chamberlain plays more of a safety role and will team up with returners Naeem Smith and George Nyakwol, who coaches believe can work his way into the 2021 NFL Draft. The incoming freshman class includes safety Gabe Taylor (Gulliver Prep in Miami), the highest-rated Rice signee in the modern recruiting era and younger brother of Sean Taylor.

SPECIALISTS Bloomgren went back to his old stomping grounds to sign former Stanford kicker Collin Riccitelli, a graduate transfer who will have two years of eligibility. Riccitelli also has experience at punter, although the preference is to have Charlie Mendes handle the role.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Owls made a slight improvement in Year Two under Bloomgren, going from 2–11 to 3–9, and there's a renewed hope after ending the season on a three-game win streak. With plenty of experience across the board, if the quarterback spot can become settled, the Owls could be a surprise team in the C-USA West, although the non-conference schedule is tough with a neutral-site game against defending national champion LSU, plus matchups against crosstown rival Houston and Army.



Bradley Rozner

"These guys were the best bad team in college football last year. Look at their tape. Every fourth quarter, every OT, they're playing their butts off."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (5)

WR	**10**	**Austin Trammell (Sr.)**	88	August Pitre III (So.)
WR	**2**	**Bradley Rozner (Jr.)**	13	Zan Knipe (Fr.)
LT	**71**	**Clay Servin (So.)**	75	Derek Ferraro (So.)
LG	73	Cole Garcia (So.)	79	Regan Riddle (Fr.)
C	54	Isaac Klarkowski (Fr.)	58	Shea Baker (Jr.)
RG	**58**	**Shea Baker (Jr.)**	50	Izeya Floyd (Fr.)
RT	63	Brandt Peterson (Jr.)	70	Jovaun Woolford (Sr.)
TE	82	Jaeger Bull (Jr.)	**7**	**Jordan Myers (Sr.)**
QB	4	Mike Collins (Sr.)	9	TJ McMahon (So.)
RB	8	Juma Otoviano (So.)	30	Ari Broussard (So.)
FB	85	Brendan Suckley (So.)	35	Luke Armstrong (So.)

DEFENSE (10) Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**7**	**Trey Schuman (Jr.)**	91	Ikenna Enechukwu (So.)
NT	55	De'Braylon Carroll (So.)	2	JaVante Hubbard (Sr.)
DT	**92**	**Elijah Garcia (Sr.)**	11	Cameron Valentine (So.)
DE	**10**	**Kenneth Orji (Jr.)**	8	Kebreyun Page (So.)
OLB	**6**	**Blaze Alldredge (Sr.)**	33	Myron Morrison (Fr.)
MLB	**1**	**Antonio Montero (Jr.)**	46	Garrett Grammer (Sr.)
OLB	**17**	**Treshawn Chamberlain (Jr.)**	23	Isaiah Richardson (Jr.)
CB	19	Tre'shon Devones (So.)	22	Jason White (So.)
CB	**18**	**Tyrae Thornton (Jr.)**	**15**	**Andrew Bird (So.)**
SS	**3**	**Naeem Smith (Sr.)**	9	Kirk Lockhart (So.)
FS	**20**	**George Nyakwol (Sr.)**	4	Prudy Calderon (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Collin Riccitelli (Jr.)	**KR** 10	Austin Trammell (Sr.)
P	91	Charlie Mendes (Fr.)	**PR** 10	Austin Trammell (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Wiley Green, 142-75-787-2, 4 TDs
Rushing: JoVoni Johnson, 27 att., 159 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Austin Trammell, 60 rec., 726 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Blaze Alldredge, 102
Sacks: Blaze Alldredge, 4.0
Interceptions: Treshawn Chamberlain, Naeem Smith, 2

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Mike Bloomgren
Record at School: 5-20 (2 years)
Career Record: 5-20 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jerry Mack
Defensive Coordinator: Brian Smith
Houston, TX • Rice Stadium (47,000)

Maria Lysaker

SOUTHERN MISS Golden Eagles

National Forecast: **79** · C-USA West Prediction: **2** · Projected Record: **8-4, 5-3 C-USA**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	South Alabama
Sept.	12	Louisiana Tech
Sept.	19	Jackson State
Sept.	26	at Auburn
Oct.	3	at North Texas
Oct.	10	Florida Atlantic
Oct.	17	at UTEP
Oct.	24	at Liberty
Oct.	31	Rice
Nov.	14	at Western Kentucky
Nov.	21	UTSA
Nov.	28	at UAB

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 7-6, 5-3 C-USA

Aug.	31	Alcorn State	W	38-10
Sept.	7	at Miss. State	L	15-38
Sept.	14	at Troy	W	47-42
Sept.	21	at Alabama	L	7-49
Sept.	28	UTEP	W	31-13
Oct.	12	North Texas	W	45-27
Oct.	19	at Louisiana Tech	L	30-45
Oct.	26	at Rice	W	20-6
Nov.	9	UAB	W	37-2
Nov.	16	at UTSA	W	36-17
Nov.	23	Western Kentucky	L	10-28
Nov.	30	at Florida Atlantic	L	17-34
Jan.	4	vs. Tulane #	L	13-30

Armed Forces Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Camron Harrell, S, Bradley, IL*
2. Frank Gore Jr., RB, Miami, FL
3. Xavier Morrow, LB, Cottondale, AL
4. Dominic Quewon, DE, Minneapolis, MN*
5. Dontavious Turner, ATH, Magnolia, MS
6. Da'Quan Bailey-Brown, WR, Pompano Beach, FL*
7. Brandon Hayes, WR, Hattiesburg, MS
8. Kristin Booth, DE, Oxford, AL
9. Don Ragsdale, RB, Satartia, MS*
10. Rico Dorsey, RB, Hattiesburg, MS

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	CUSA	NATIONAL
Scoring	26.6 ppg	5	81
Rushing	117.5 ypg	13	121
Passing	289.5 ypg	1	19
Total	407.0 ypg	6	63
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	26.2 ppg	7	55
Rushing	115.8 ypg	1	18
Passing	236.7 ypg	10	82
Total	352.5 ypg	3	37
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
-11	-0.85	14	122

STAT CORNER

9.63%

Southern Miss defenders recorded 39 sacks last season, posting a 9.63 percent sack rate that ranked second in Conference USA and 10th in the country.

OFFENSE Head coach Jay Hopson tabbed Matt Kubik, fresh from a productive four-year stint at UL-Monroe, to be his new offensive coordinator. Kubik should feel no need to reinvent the wheel with a veteran lineup. The quarterback, Jack Abraham, is an entrenched senior with 22 career starts. Wideouts Tim Jones and Jaylond Adams are all-conference candidates with more than 2,100 receiving yards between them over the past two years. There's significant starting experience in the backfield and along the offensive line.

Still, for an attack that finished in the middle of the pack in C-USA in both total and scoring offense, there are lingering issues. One: Reversing the trend line on Abraham's interception count, which climbed from 10 picks in 2018 to 15 last year even as his overall efficiency held steady. Two: Replacing the resident big-play threat, speedster Quez Watkins, who declared early for the draft after a breakout year. In addition to the holdovers at receiver, USM added a pair of junior college All-Americans, Jason Brownlee and Da'Quan Bailey-Brown, in pursuit of more downfield pop. And three: Juicing up a meager ground game. Sophomore Trivenskey Mosley may get first crack at tailback after missing most of 2019 to injury, but juco transfer Don Ragsdale and incoming freshman Frank Gore Jr. will be in the mix.

DEFENSE The defense, one of the nation's best in 2018, took a predictable step back last year. New defensive coordinator Tony Pecoraro inherits a unit that's rich in front-line experience — the entire starting lineup will likely consist of redshirt juniors and seniors — while also counting on an influx of juco talent to shore up depth.

On one hand, between DE Jacques Turner, LB Racheem Boothe and DBs Rachuan Mitchell and Ky'el Hemby, there are proven commodities with 20-plus starts apiece and All-C-USA potential at every level. But there are glaring holes, too. At 340 pounds, senior DT Von'Darius Freeman certainly has the size to fill the void on the interior defensive line, where Southern Miss has led the league in rushing defense each of the past two years. After giving up far too many big plays through the air, though, the vacancies at the cornerback slot opposite Mitchell and in the nickel role are major concerns. The transfer brigade, led by former Iowa signee Camron Harrell, should factor in immediately.

SPECIALISTS Andrew Stein won the placekicking job as a true freshman, connecting on 18-of-22 attempts with just two misses inside 40 yards; along with senior punter Zac Everett, the Eagles can count on two of C-USA's more reliable legs. Jaylond Adams took two kickoffs and one punt to the house in the first three weeks, establishing an electric rep in the return game.

FINAL ANALYSIS Hopson has delivered winning records in each of his four seasons in Hattiesburg, so qualifying for a bowl game feels like the bare minimum. Otherwise, his teams have struggled to move the needle. Southern Miss has lost seven straight vs. Power 5 competition and has yet to finish better than a tie for second in C-USA's West Division. Again, the Golden Eagles can probably count on finishing in the black at the expense of the dregs of the schedule. Beyond that? Nine wins and/or a division crown would be a welcome step up.

Jack Abraham

"They lacked consistency last year. For the amount of talent they have, you would think they'd be more effective against the top-half teams in the league."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**5**	**Tim Jones (Sr.)**	11	Antavious Willis (Fr.)
WR	**2**	**Jaylond Adams (Jr.)**		Da'Quan Bailey-Brown (Jr.)
WR		Jason Brownlee (Jr.)	87	Marquis McCoy (Jr.)
LT	**70**	**Khalique Washington (Sr.)**	64	Hayden Sturdevant (Jr.)
LG	**63**	**Arvin Fletcher (Sr.)**	65	Gerquan Scott (Fr.)
C	**57**	**Trace Clopton (Jr.)**	52	Louis Smith (Fr.)
RG	**68**	**Bryce Foxworth (Sr.)**		Tykeem Doss (Jr.)
RT	60	Coker Wright (So.)	77	Tanner Hawthorne (Sr.)
TE		Grayson Gunter (Sr.)	**48**	**Ray Ladner (Jr.)**
QB	**15**	**Jack Abraham (Sr.)**	6	Tate Whatley (Jr.)
RB	22	Trivenskey Mosley (So.)	33	Kevin Perkins (Sr.)

DEFENSE (7) — Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**99**	**Jacques Turner (Sr.)**	90	Junior Carswell (So.)
DT	51	Von'Darius Freeman (Sr.)		Terrence Cherry (Jr.)
DT	3	Tahj Sykes (Jr.)		Austin Todd (So.)
DE	49	Eriq Kitchen (Sr.)		Dominic Quewon (Jr.)
MLB	**41**	**Racheem Boothe (Sr.)**	32	Hayes Maples (So.)
OLB	**28**	**Swayze Bozeman (Sr.)**	**6**	**Santrell Latham (Jr.)**
CB	**1**	**Rachuan Mitchell (Sr.)**	27	Tre Davis (Jr.)
CB	39	WyDale Flott (Sr.)	30	Markel McLaurin (So.)
NB		Camron Harrell (Jr.)		Eric Scott (So.)
SS	**19**	**Ky'el Hemby (Sr.)**	9	Malik Shorts (So.)
FS	**15**	**Shannon Showers (Jr.)**	25	Tyler Barnes (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	98	Andrew Stein (So.)	**KR**	2	Jaylond Adams (Jr.)
P	93	Zac Everett (Sr.)	**PR**	2	Jaylond Adams (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jack Abraham, 405-275-3,496-15, 19 TDs
Rushing: Kevin Perkins, 103 att., 547 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Tim Jones, 73 rec., 902 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Ky'el Hemby, 93
Sacks: Jacques Turner, 5.5
Interceptions: Three with 2

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Jay Hopson
Record at School: 28-22 (4 years)
Career Record: 60-39 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinators: Matt Kubik, Scotty Walden
Defensive Coordinator: Tony Pecoraro
Hattiesburg, MS • M.M. Roberts Stadium (36,000)

Southern Miss Athletics

UAB Blazers

National Forecast: **63** · C-USA West Prediction: **1** · Projected Record: **10-3, 6-2 C-USA**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3	New Mexico State
Sept.	12	Alabama A&M
Sept.	17	at Miami
Sept.	26	at South Alabama
Oct.	3	UTSA
Oct.	10	at Rice
Oct.	17	Western Kentucky
Oct.	31	at Louisiana Tech
Nov.	7	at Old Dominion
Nov.	14	North Texas
Nov.	21	at UTEP
Nov.	28	Southern Miss

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 9-5, 6-2 C-USA

Aug.	29	Alabama State	W	24-19
Sept.	7	at Akron	W	31-20
Sept.	21	South Alabama	W	35-3
Sept.	28	at Western Kentucky	L	13-20
Oct.	5	Rice	W	35-20
Oct.	12	at UTSA	W	33-14
Oct.	19	Old Dominion	W	38-14
Nov.	2	at Tennessee	L	7-30
Nov.	9	at Southern Miss	L	2-37
Nov.	16	UTEP	W	37-10
Nov.	23	Louisiana Tech	W	20-14
Nov.	30	at North Texas	W	26-21
Dec.	7	at Florida Atlantic #	L	6-49
Dec.	21	vs. App. State %	L	17-31

#C-USA Championship %New Orleans Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Maleak Bryant, TE, Atlanta, GA*
2. Allen Merrick, LB, Gadsden, AL
3. Tamarious Brown, LB, Memphis, TN
4. Kadeem Telfort, OT, Miami, FL*
5. AJ Davis, WR, Maryville, TN
6. Colby Dempsey, CB, Fort Lauderdale, FL
7. Dewayne McBride, RB, Ocala, FL
8. Zach Taylor, OT, Madison, AL
9. Kelle Sanders, DE, Olympia, WA*
10. Armani Maddox, S, Atlanta, GA

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	CUSA	NATIONAL
Scoring	23.1 ppg	10	102
Rushing	150.8 ypg	8	76
Passing	201.1 ypg	9	94
Total	351.9 ypg	10	105
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	21.6 ppg	2	28
Rushing	118.2 ypg	2	20
Passing	183.6 ypg	1	8
Total	301.9 ypg	1	8
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
-8	-0.57	13	109

STAT CORNER

5.92%

UAB threw 20 interceptions in 338 attempts. That 5.92 percent interception rate was highest in the country.

OFFENSE UAB's success offensively depends on the health of junior quarterback Tyler Johnston III, and the coaching staff will have to figure out a way to keep him from getting hit so much. He's expected to hold off sophomore Dylan Hopkins, who started five games. Hopkins didn't have as much success moving the ball as Johnston, who was dynamic to close out the 2018 season.

Spencer Brown enters his senior season already having set UAB's career rushing yards record, but he had just 566 yards as a junior and averaged 3.8 yards per carry, as he was hampered by a foot injury. Jermaine Brown Jr. exploded onto the scene as a freshman with 446 yards, and junior Lucious Stanley, finally healthy after injury-plagued seasons in 2017 and 2018, is also a key cog in the group.

Austin Watkins is just the third UAB receiver in history to record more than 1,000 receiving yards in a season and the first since NFL All-Pro Roddy White accomplished the feat in 2004. Myron Mitchell is also an accomplished starter, and slot Markus Grossman will see a bigger role as he steps into a starting position. Senior tight end Hayden Pittman is a four-year starter. The line is experienced, as six returning players earned starts last season.

DEFENSE The Blazers return star power and experience, led by edge rusher Jordan Smith and linebacker Kristopher Moll, two of Conference USA's best defenders and two legit NFL prospects. Noah Wilder was a big surprise last year at linebacker, finishing with 85 tackles. He'll be pushed by Jarrion Street, who missed last season with an injury. Smith (17.5 tackles for a loss) and sophomore Alex Wright (8.5 TFLs) are terrors coming off the edge, and junior college transfer Kelle Sanders will make an impact there as well. Inside, senior Tony Fair is an all-conference candidate, but the Blazers need big seasons from a combination of sophomore Fish McWilliams, veterans Antonio Moultrie and Michael Fairbanks II and junior college transfer Isaiah Forte.

The backfield is experienced, with all-conference cornerback Brontae Harris expected back from a foot injury that cost him all of last season. Cornerback is the deepest and most experienced position, with TD Marshall, Starling Thomas V, Devodric Bynum, Keondre Swoopes, Xavier Lanier and C.D. Daniels vying for time. Will Boler and Grayson Cash will man the safety spots, while Dy'jonn Turner is coming off a breakout season at the STAR secondary position.

SPECIALISTS Sophomore Wilson Beaverstock and freshman Matthew Quinn are battling to replace Nick Vogel at kicker. Neither has game experience. Kyle Greenwell enters his third year as the starting punter. Mitchell is dynamic on kick returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS Going into the fourth season since the program was resurrected in 2017, expectations have never been higher. The Blazers are coming off back-to-back C-USA championship games and return more players with starting experience and more proven depth than in previous seasons. UAB must up its game against better competition, as the Blazers were not competitive in four of their five losses. There is reason to believe the defense will be the best in Conference USA, and UAB could reach new heights offensively if Johnston can stay healthy.

Kristopher Moll

"They're well coached in every facet, and with the stadium coming, I think they can recruit Alabama better than any other Group of 5 program."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (10)				
WR	**6**	**Austin Watkins Jr. (Sr.)**	23	Kevin Davis (Jr.)
WR	13	Markus Grossman (Sr.)	87	Ryan Davis (Fr.)
WR	**5**	**Myron Mitchell (Sr.)**	81	Alec Marsch (Sr.)
LT	**53**	**Colby Ragland (Sr.)**	58	Shaun'tavis Vardaman (Jr.)
LG	**51**	**Jakoby Jones (Sr.)**	61	Matthew Trehern (Jr.)
C	**55**	**Andrew Smith Jr. (Sr.)**	75	Will Rykard (Fr.)
RG	**66**	**Greg Fecanin (Sr.)**	73	Patrick Nuss (Jr.)
RT	**62**	**Sidney Wells (Sr.)**	67	Carter Wood (Sr.)
TE	**10**	**Hayden Pittman (Sr.)**	88	Maleak Bryant (So.)
QB	**17**	**Tyler Johnston III (Jr.)**	9	Dylan Hopkins (So.)
RB	**4**	**Spencer Brown (Sr.)**	30	Jermaine Brown Jr. (So.)
DEFENSE (9)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	16	Alex Wright (So.)	11	Kelle Sanders (Jr.)
NT	**90**	**Tony Fair (Sr.)**	99	Fish McWilliams (So.)
DT	44	Antonio Moultrie (Jr.)	93	Michael Fairbanks II (So.)
OLB	**22**	**Jordan Smith (Jr.)**	30	Jalen Rayam (So.)
MLB	**6**	**Kristopher Moll (Sr.)**	24	DeShaun Oliver Jr. (So.)
MLB	**50**	**Noah Wilder (Jr.)**	7	Jarrion Street (Sr.)
CB	**1**	**Brontae Harris (Sr.)**	**4**	**Starling Thomas V (Jr.)**
CB	**8**	**TD Marshall (Sr.)**	2	Keondre Swoopes (So.)
STAR	**15**	**Dy'jonn Turner (Sr.)**	9	Kobe Griffin (Jr.)
SS	12	Grayson Cash (Jr.)	26	Damon Miller (So.)
FS	**21**	**Will Boler (Jr.)**	28	Jaylen Key (So.)
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	19	Matthew Quinn (Fr.)	**KR**	5 Myron Mitchell (Sr.)
P	98	Kyle Greenwell (Jr.)	**PR**	5 Myron Mitchell (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Tyler Johnston III, 249-147-2,250-15, 17 TDs
Rushing: Spencer Brown, 150 att., 566 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Austin Watkins Jr., 57 rec., 1,092 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Kristopher Moll, 104
Sacks: Jordan Smith, 10.0
Interceptions: Will Boler, 2

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Bill Clark
Record at School: 34-19 (4 years)
Career Record: 45-23 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Bryant Vincent
Defensive Coordinator: David Reeves
Birmingham, AL • Legion Field (72,000)

Kamp Fender/UAB Athletics

UTEP Miners

National Forecast: **129** • C-USA West Prediction: **7** • Projected Record: **1-11, 0-8 C-USA**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Texas Tech
Sept.	12	at Nevada
Sept.	19	at Texas
Sept.	26	New Mexico State
Oct.	10	at Louisiana Tech
Oct.	17	Southern Miss
Oct.	24	at Charlotte
Oct.	31	North Texas
Nov.	7	FIU
Nov.	14	at UTSA
Nov.	21	UAB
Nov.	28	at Rice

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 1-11, 0-8 C-USA

Aug.	31	Houston Baptist	W	36-34
Sept.	8	at Texas Tech	L	3-38
Sept.	22	Nevada	L	21-37
Sept.	28	at Southern Miss	L	13-31
Oct.	6	UTSA	L	16-26
Oct.	19	at FIU	L	17-32
Oct.	26	Louisiana Tech	L	21-42
Nov.	2	at North Texas	L	26-52
Nov.	9	Charlotte	L	21-28
Nov.	16	at UAB	L	10-37
Nov.	23	at New Mexico State	L	35-44
Nov.	30	Rice	L	16-30

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Willie Eldridge, RB, Cypress, TX
2. Osaiasi Taueli, LB, Mesa, AZ
3. Michael Flood, OG, Maricopa, AZ
4. Tyrice Knight, LB, Lakeland, FL*
5. Dresden McIver, DT, San Antonio, TX
6. Kiante Liggins, LB, El Paso, TX
7. Ian James, OT, Aubrey, TX
8. Ammon Fifita, TE, Ephraim, UT
9. Jacob Moi, LB, Redlands, CA
10. Dennis Barnes, CB, Jefferson City, MO*

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	C-USA	NATIONAL
Scoring	19.6 ppg	12	119
Rushing	138.2 ypg	9	96
Passing	191.0 ypg	11	104
Total	329.2 ypg	12	116
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**C-USA**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	35.9 ppg	14	119
Rushing	201.3 ypg	14	108
Passing	229.6 ypg	7	70
Total	430.8 ypg	13	95
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**C-USA**	**NATIONAL**
-4	-0.33	8	93

STAT CORNER

20.6%

The Miners held opponents to a three-and-out just 28 times in 136 drives in 2019. The 20.6 percent three-and-out rate was the worst among all 130 FBS teams last year.

OFFENSE UTEP has to improve an offense that has been among the worst in the nation for the last three years, and that will hinge on the performance of a new quarterback. The first returns on the competition between freshman TJ Goodwin and sophomore Gavin Hardison got cut short in the truncated spring, leaving the Miners with a lot of questions at the spot where they most need a breakthrough.

Both contenders are coming off redshirts, though New Mexico Military Institute transfer Hardison made two UTEP appearances last year when it appeared he was being groomed to take the job. That is the only Division I experience in the quarterback group. Goodwin narrowed the gap in two weeks of spring practice, setting up the position battle that will go far in determining if the Miners can finally locate some offense.

Whoever wins the battle will have some weapons to work with, as Devaughn Cooper, Justin Garrett and Jacob Cowing give UTEP its best wide receiver group in almost a decade. If Quardraiz Wadley can finally stay healthy at tailback and live up the potential he's shown when he has seen the field, the Miners have the chance to be more explosive.

Led by guards Bobby DeHaro and Elijah Klein, the line is strong in the middle. Getting better protection at the tackle spots, where Jeremiah Byers and Zuri Henry will get the first cracks, will be a key.

DEFENSE UTEP was 129th in the nation in third-down defense last year, which sums up the struggles on that side. The Miners made a move to address that with an influx of junior college recruits all over the unit, particularly on the line, trying to improve on a season where they had only 12 sacks.

There figure to be new faces everywhere, but there is a core to build around in returning linemen Praise Amaewhule and Josh Ortega, linebackers Stephen Forester and Jayson VanHook and defensive backs Duron Lowe, Josh Caldwell and Justin Prince.

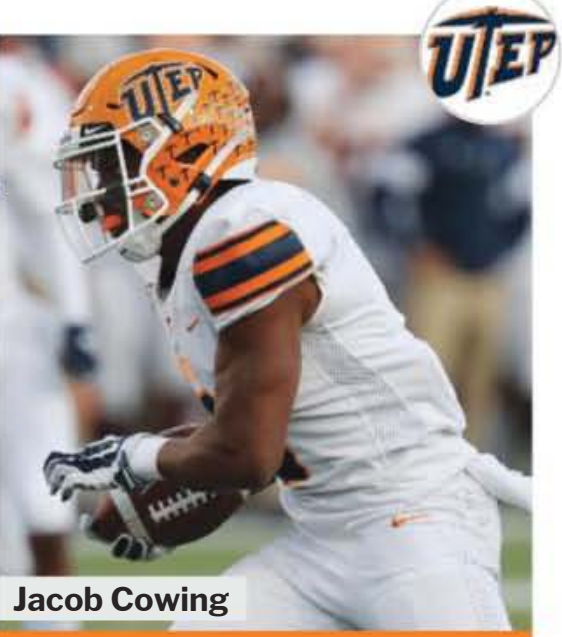
The key will be hitting gold with some of the junior college transfers on whom they staked their 2020 class. Some combination on the line of Jadrian Taylor, Deylon Williams and Keenan Stewart needs to emerge.

SPECIALISTS The Miners went into summer seeking a punter, but on the plus side, junior placekicker Gavin Baechle was booming the ball in spring.

With punt returner Garrett and kickoff returner Walter Dawn Jr., UTEP has a veteran group that doesn't make many mistakes. Getting some big plays, something that hasn't happened in recent years, would be a bonus.

FINAL ANALYSIS UTEP coach Dana Dimel has touted the improvement of his program since he arrived two seasons ago, but he's still seeking a breakthrough set of wins that could make that tangible. A Miners program that is 2–34 over the last three years and carries an 11-game losing streak into 2020 does bring more talent into this season than it's had through this run, particularly at receiver. But they also have a new-to-Division I quarterback and a defense that will largely hinge on newcomers.

The hope is that either Goodwin or Hardison is able to take advantage of a solid cast and give UTEP some offensive stability and identity it has lacked. On defense, new faces need to help generate sacks and turnovers, which have been scarce for years.



Jacob Cowing

"Their record didn't match their look, because in pregame you'd see a bunch of studs and athletes. Then the game starts, and they just don't put it together."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (3)

WR	1	Devaughn Cooper (Jr.)	4	Q Drennan (Sr.)
WR	**6**	**Jacob Cowing (So.)**	26	Walter Dawn Jr. (Sr.)
WR	17	Justin Garrett (Sr.)	13	Quintavius Workman (Fr.)
LT	**68**	**Zuri Henry (Jr.)**	76	Darta Lee (Sr.)
LG	**73**	**Bobby DeHaro (Jr.)**	66	Justin Mayers (Fr.)
C	75	Andrew Meyer (So.)	71	Tristin Tuialuuluu (So.)
RG	79	Elijah Klein (So.)	55	Tres Barboza (Jr.)
RT	63	Jeremiah Byers (Fr.)	62	Cameron Cooper (Fr.)
TE	45	Trent Thompson (Jr.)		Zach Fryar (So.)
QB	12	Gavin Hardison (So.)	10	TJ Goodwin (Fr.)
RB	2	Quardraiz Wadley (Sr.)	33	Deion Hankins (Fr.)

DEFENSE (4) Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**23**	**Praise Amaewhule (So.)**	90	Dakari Bickham (Jr.)
DT	97	Josh Ortega (Sr.)	54	Keenan Stewart (Jr.)
DT	59	Dedrick Simpson (Jr.)	94	Jalen Rudolph (Fr.)
DE	11	Jadrian Taylor (Jr.)	42	Deylon Williams (Jr.)
OLB	17	Jerome Wilson Jr. (Fr.)	6	Gary Theard (Fr.)
MLB	47	Stephen Forester (Sr.)	30	Cal Wallerstedt (So.)
OLB	**9**	**Jayson VanHook (Sr.)**	10	Tyrice Knight (Jr.)
CB	**22**	**Josh Caldwell (Sr.)**	12	Dennis Barnes (Jr.)
CB	**29**	**Duron Lowe (Sr.)**	18	Robert Corner III (Jr.)
SS	28	Broderick Harrell (Jr.)	3	Ty'reke James (Jr.)
FS	21	Justin Prince (Jr.)	2	Tyson Wilson (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	40	Gavin Baechle (Jr.)	**KR**	26	Walter Dawn Jr. (Sr.)
P	40	Gavin Baechle (Jr.)	**PR**	17	Justin Garrett (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Gavin Hardison, 61-27-335-0, 1 TD
Rushing: Joshua Fields, 59 att., 312 yds., 0 TDs
Receiving: Justin Garrett, 40 rec., 446 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Josh Caldwell, Jayson VanHook, 52
Sacks: Praise Amaewhule, 3.0
Interceptions: None

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Dana Dimel
Record at School: 2-22 (2 years)
Career Record: 32-61 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Canales
Defensive Coordinator: Mike Cox
El Paso, TX • Sun Bowl (51,500)

UTEP Athletics

UTSA Roadrunners

National Forecast: **122** • C-USA West Prediction: **6** • Projected Record: **4-8, 2-6 C-USA**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at LSU
Sept.	12	at Texas State
Sept.	19	Grambling
Sept.	26	Memphis
Oct.	3	at UAB
Oct.	17	Old Dominion
Oct.	24	Louisiana Tech
Oct.	31	at FAU
Nov.	7	at Rice
Nov.	14	UTEP
Nov.	21	at Southern Miss
Nov.	28	North Texas

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 4-8, 3-5 C-USA

Aug.	31	Incarnate Word	W	35-7
Sept.	7	at Baylor	L	14-63
Sept.	14	Army	L	13-31
Sept.	21	at North Texas	L	3-45
Oct.	5	at UTEP	W	26-16
Oct.	12	UAB	L	14-33
Oct.	19	Rice	W	31-27
Nov.	2	at Texas A&M	L	14-45
Nov.	9	at Old Dominion	W	24-23
Nov.	16	Southern Miss	L	17-36
Nov.	23	Florida Atlantic	L	26-40
Nov.	30	at Louisiana Tech	L	27-41

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Allen Horace, TE, Crockett, TX
2. Isaiah Davis, WR, El Paso, TX
3. Asyrus Simon, DE, Humble, TX
4. Walker Baty, DT, Liberty Hill, TX
5. Jamal Ligon, DE, Tyler, TX
6. Monte Williams, C, Mesquite, TX
7. Kaedric Cobbs, RB, Denton, TX
8. Xavier Spencer, CB, Converse, TX
9. Ernesto Almaraz, OG, Los Angeles, CA*
10. Avery Morris, LB, Humble, TX

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	CUSA	NATIONAL
Scoring	20.3 ppg	11	117
Rushing	162.5 ypg	7	64
Passing	182.4 ypg	12	106
Total	344.9 ypg	11	107
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	33.9 ppg	13	112
Rushing	198.3 ypg	12	105
Passing	230.8 ypg	8	73
Total	429.1 ypg	12	92
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**CUSA**	**NATIONAL**
-6	-0.50	11	103

STAT CORNER

16.51%

UTSA led Conference USA and ranked third nationally by stopping 16.51 percent of its opponents' rushing attempts behind the line of scrimmage.

OFFENSE There is good news and bad news here. There's a healthy competition at quarterback, a freshman All-American at running back and a receiving corps that is fairly deep and experienced. The downside? An offensive line with some question marks and no spring practice for a new coaching staff to install a new no-huddle attack.

Former LSU redshirt Lowell Narcisse started seven games in 2019 at quarterback, but he is going to have to fight off Frank Harris to be the starter again. Harris beat out Narcisse in fall camp in 2019 but was injured in the fourth game and never returned. He was cleared to play in spring practice prior to its cancellation.

Running back Sincere McCormick earned Freshman All-America honors after rushing for 983 yards and eight TDs. He should be the workhorse.

At wide receiver, sophomore Zakhari Franklin could challenge for league honors after turning in a stellar second half of his debut season. Joshua Cephus and Sheldon Jones also return, and Tykee Ogle-Kellogg returns after missing most of 2019 due to injury. He led the team in TD catches in 2018.

The offensive line welcomes back three starters, including honorable mention All-C-USA junior Spencer Burford. Filling out the starting line may fall to junior college transfers Ernesto Almaraz and Makai Hart, as depth is an issue.

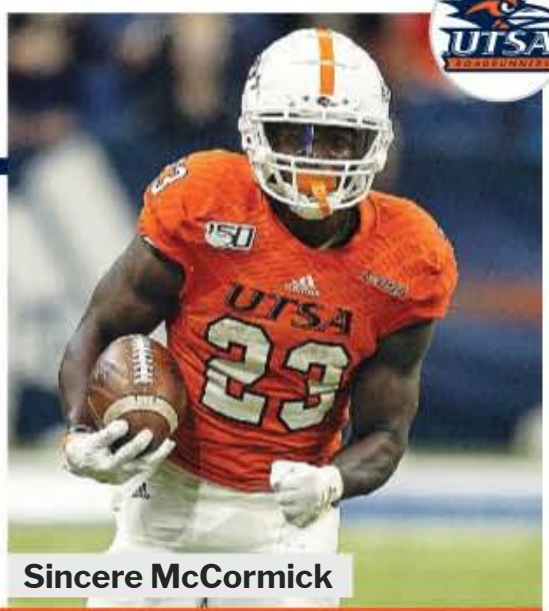
DEFENSE The Roadrunners are shifting from a 4-2-5 base to a 3-3-5 look, so the cancellation of spring ball also hurts the defensive side of the ball as even veterans would likely be learning new positions.

The defensive line should be deep again, and it will be led by DT Jaylon Haynes, an honorable mention All-C-USA performer in 2019. Look for Lorenzo Dantzler and DeQuarius Henry to be major contributors, with Henry possibly dropping back to an outside linebacker position.

At linebacker, Trevor Harmanson should start, but after that, there are questions. Solomon Wise may move from defensive end, while Rashad Wisdom could move up into a hybrid safety/linebacker role after starting all 12 games as a freshman. Should Wisdom move, the traditional safety slots should still be in pretty good hands as Kelechi Nwachuku and SaVion Harris split the position in 2019 with six starts each after Harris was injured in Week 7. They likely will play together, and with Corey Mayfield Jr. returning at corner, a pass defense that moved up 50 spots nationally to No. 73 in 2019 could improve further.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Hunter Duplessis will carry a streak of nine straight field goals and 25 straight extra points made into the season, his second as a starter. Punter Lucas Dean is also back after averaging 40.8 yards per punt and having 43 percent of his kicks become fair catches. UTSA was No. 127 in punt returns last year, an area that figures to be a point of emphasis for the new staff.

FINAL ANALYSIS A 4–8 record was not enough to save former coach Frank Wilson's job, so in comes first-year college head coach Jeff Traylor. The former Arkansas assistant enjoyed a successful run as a Texas high school coach before spending five years as a college assistant. Job No. 1 will be to settle on a QB and install his offense. Can UTSA get to .500 in his first season? That would represent major progress at a program that needs a shot in the arm.



Sincere McCormick

"I think going Texas-heavy with the new staff makes a lot of sense. Up your profile in the high schools, get local and build in places like DFW and Houston."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)

WR	80	Joshua Cephus (So.)	11	Tykee Ogle-Kellogg (So.)
WR	18	Zakhari Franklin (So.)	**2**	**Sheldon Jones (Jr.)**
LT	**74**	**Spencer Burford (Jr.)**	70	Jalyn Galmore (Sr.)
LG	**61**	**Kevin Davis (Jr.)**		Makai Hart (Jr.)
C	**67**	**Ahofitu Maka (Jr.)**	75	Bosah Osakwe (Sr.)
RG	64	Ernesto Almaraz (So.)	58	Terrell Haynes (So.)
RT	66	Dominic Pastucci (Sr.)	78	Josh Oatis (Sr.)
TE	**89**	**Leroy Watson (Sr.)**	87	Gavin Sharp (Jr.)
QB	7	Frank Harris (Jr.)	**10**	**Lowell Narcisse (Jr.)**
RB	**23**	**Sincere McCormick (So.)**	22	Brenden Brady (Jr.)
FB	37	Myles Benning (Sr.)	35	Nathan Guyton (Fr.)

DEFENSE (5) Returning Starters in Bold

DE	56	Zachary Gilson (So.)	57	Peter Gray (So.)
DT	**95**	**Jaylon Haynes (Sr.)**	50	Brandon Matterson (Jr.)
DE	98	Lorenzo Dantzler (Sr.)	76	Kevin Nelson (So.)
OLB	45	DeQuarius Henry (Sr.)	94	Solomon Wise (Sr.)
MLB	**46**	**Trevor Harmanson (Jr.)**	47	Jarrett Preston (So.)
OLB	59	Clarence Hicks (Sr.)	38	Tyler Mahnke (Jr.)
CB	**26**	**Corey Mayfield Jr. (Jr.)**	13	Jahmal Sam (So.)
CB	33	JayVeon Cardwell (So.)	3	Tariq Woolen (Jr.)
S	**39**	**Rashad Wisdom (So.)**	4	Antonio Parks (Sr.)
S	6	SaVion Harris (Sr.)	17	Vance Vallair (Jr.)
S	**1**	**Kelechi Nwachuku (So.)**	32	Dadrian Taylor (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	48	Hunter Duplessis (Sr.)	**KR**	2	Sheldon Jones (Jr.)
P	35	Lucas Dean (So.)	**PR**	13	Jahmal Sam (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Lowell Narcisse, 201-107-1,226-5, 8 TDs
Rushing: Sincere McCormick, 177 att., 983 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Zakhari Franklin, 38 rec., 491 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Trevor Harmanson, 48
Sacks: DeQuarius Henry, 5.0
Interceptions: 3 tied with 1

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Jeff Traylor
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Barry Lunney Jr.
Defensive Coordinator: Tyrone Nix
San Antonio, TX • Alamodome (65,000)

Jeff Huehn/UTSA Athletics

MAC *Preview*

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

EAST DIVISION

1 *Buffalo* **BULLS** 9-4, 6-2 MAC

2 *Miami (Ohio)* **REDHAWKS** 7-5, 5-3 MAC

3 *Ohio* **BOBCATS** 7-5, 5-3 MAC

4 *Kent State* **GOLDEN FLASHES** 5-7, 4-4 MAC

5 *Bowling Green* **FALCONS** 2-10, 1-7 MAC

6 *Akron* **ZIPS** 3-9, 0-8 MAC

WEST DIVISION

1 *Toledo* **ROCKETS** 7-6, 6-2 MAC

2 *Central Michigan* **CHIPPEWAS** 7-5, 5-3 MAC

3 *Ball State* **CARDINALS** 6-6, 5-3 MAC

4 *Western Michigan* **BRONCOS** 6-6, 5-3 MAC

5 *Northern Illinois* **HUSKIES** 4-8, 3-5 MAC

6 *Eastern Michigan* **EAGLES** 4-8, 3-5 MAC

MAC Championship: **Buffalo over Toledo**

Games to Watch

OCT. 3
OHIO AT TOLEDO
Both teams fell short of expectations last year. This battle in the Glass Bowl could determine whether either team is a contender in 2020.

OCT. 3
WMU AT BALL STATE
A late TD helped Western Michigan escape with a 35–31 win over Ball State last season and prevented the Cardinals from becoming bowl-eligible.

OCT. 10
TOLEDO AT WMU
Both teams figure to be in the MAC West mix once again. The Rockets have beaten the Broncos three straight times.

OCT. 17
WMU AT CMU
The Chippewas are the defending MAC West champions. The Broncos have won the last four meetings in Mount Pleasant.

OCT. 17
OHIO AT MIAMI (OHIO)
Miami has a winning streak against Ohio for first time since 2000-05, and the RedHawks also are the defending MAC champs. The Bobcats can take care of two birds with one win.

OCT. 17
BOWLING GREEN AT TOLEDO
Bowling Green beat Toledo last season to claim the Battle of I-75 Trophy for the first time in a decade (2009).

Patterson: Paul Hokanson/UBBulls.com; Mitchell: Daniel Miller/University of Toledo

2020 Unit Rankings

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
Akron	8	12	10	12	11	12	10
Ball State	2	3	4	4	9	4	1
Bowling Green	12	6	11	11	12	11	11
Buffalo	4	1	12	1	1	1	5
Central Michigan	11	4	1	9	2	5	3
Eastern Michigan	7	11	7	7	8	10	8
Kent State	1	9	8	8	10	8	9
Miami	3	7	6	5	3	7	2
Northern Illinois	9	10	9	10	4	6	12
Ohio	10	5	5	6	6	3	4
Toledo	5	2	3	2	7	9	7
Western Michigan	6	8	2	3	5	2	6

Recruiting by School

1. Toledo
2. Bowling Green
3. Western Michigan
4. Miami (Ohio)
5. Northern Illinois
6. Kent State
7. Eastern Michigan
8. Ball State
9. Central Michigan
10. Akron
11. Ohio
12. Buffalo

Bryce Mitchell

Jaret Patterson

2020 Bowl Projections

Arizona Bowl: Buffalo vs. San Diego State

Bahamas Bowl: Miami (Ohio) vs. FAU

Camellia Bowl: Ball State vs. Georgia Southern

Famous Idaho Potato Bowl: Toledo vs. Air Force

LendingTree Bowl: Ohio vs. Appalachian State

Quick Lane Bowl: Central Michigan vs. Michigan State

MAC Coordinator Carousel

Buffalo: Defense
New: Brian Borland, Chris Simpson
Old: Brian Borland

Ball State: Offense
New: Kevin Lynch
Old: Joey Lynch

Ball State: Defense
New: Tyler Stockton
Old: David Elson, Tyler Stockton

Eastern Michigan: Offense
New: Chris Creighton
Old: Aaron Keen

Toledo: Offense
New: Mike Hallett, Robert Weiner
Old: Brian Wright

Toledo: Defense
New: Craig Kuligowski, Ross Watson
Old: Brian George

OCT. 24
MIAMI (OHIO) AT CMU
A rematch of last season's MAC Championship Game, which Miami won 26–21. The RedHawks have beaten CMU three straight times.

NOV. 4
OHIO AT CMU
This series has been lopsided in CMU's favor. The Chippewas hold a 25–4–2 lead overall and have defeated Ohio four straight times.

NOV. 10
MIAMI (OHIO) AT BUFFALO
Miami beat Buffalo last season as the RedHawks won the MAC East and the Bulls wound up in a three-way tie for second.

NOV. 11
CMU AT TOLEDO
CMU thumped Toledo 49–7 last season to secure the MAC West title and snap the Chippewas' nine-game losing streak to the Rockets.

NOV. 17
KENT STATE AT MIAMI (OHIO)
Kent State improved its win total by five games last season but came up short against eventual conference champ Miami.

NOV. 18
BUFFALO AT OHIO
A missed PAT helped Ohio escape Buffalo in overtime last season. The Bobcats have beaten the Bulls five straight times in Athens.

Drew Plitt

MAC Returning Leaders

Passing	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	AVG/G
Drew Plitt, Ball State	370	238	64.3	2,918	24	7	243.2
Ross Bowers, No. Illinois	287	166	57.8	2,130	7	8	236.7
Dustin Crum, Kent State	313	217	69.3	2,625	20	2	201.9

Rushing	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
Jaret Patterson, Buffalo	312	1,799	5.8	19	82	138.4
Caleb Huntley, Ball State	248	1,275	5.1	12	54	106.3
Bryant Koback, Toledo	195	1,187	6.1	12	75	98.9

Receiving	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
Isaiah McKoy, Kent State	56	872	15.6	8	78	79.3
Kalil Pimpleton, Central Michigan	82	894	10.9	6	80	63.9
JaCorey Sullivan, Central Michigan	57	808	14.2	3	37	62.2

Tackles: Treshaun Hayward, Western Michigan (142), Bubba Arslanian, Akron (125)
Sacks: Malcolm Koonce, Buffalo (9.0), Taylor Riggins, Buffalo (8.5)
Interceptions: Amechi Uzodinma, Ball State (5), Antonio Phillips, Ball State (4)

2019 MAC Standings

EAST	MAC	OVERALL	WEST	MAC	OVERALL
Miami (Ohio)	6-2	8-6	Central Michigan	6-2	8-6
Ohio	5-3	7-6	Western Michigan	5-3	7-6
Kent State	5-3	7-6	Ball State	4-4	5-7
Buffalo	5-3	8-5	Northern Illinois	4-4	5-7
Bowling Green	2-6	3-9	Toledo	3-5	6-6
Akron	0-8	0-12	Eastern Michigan	3-5	6-7

2019 Bowl Results

Frisco Bowl: Kent State 51, Utah State 41
First Responder Bowl: Western Kentucky 23, Western Michigan 20
Bahamas Bowl: Buffalo 31, Charlotte 9
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl: Ohio 30, Nevada 21
Quick Lane Bowl: Pittsburgh 34, Eastern Michigan 30
New Mexico Bowl: San Diego State 48, Central Michigan 11
LendingTree Bowl: Louisiana 27, Miami (Ohio) 17

2019 MAC Team Stats & Rankings

Offense

	SCORING	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
Akron	10.5 (12)	47.6 (12)	195.6 (9)	243.2 (12)
Ball State	34.8 (1)	219.4 (4)	243.6 (3)	463.0 (1)
Bowling Green	16.0 (11)	161.8 (8)	157.3 (11)	319.1 (10)
Buffalo	31.5 (4)	250.5 (1)	138.1 (12)	388.5 (8)
Central Michigan	30.4 (5)	181.4 (7)	252.2 (2)	433.6 (5)
Eastern Michigan	29.2 (6T)	122.3 (11)	283.2 (1)	405.5 (7)
Kent State	29.2 (6T)	186.7 (6)	218.9 (6)	405.6 (6)
Miami	24.1 (9)	130.9 (10)	178.2 (10)	309.1 (11)
Northern Illinois	22.8 (10)	141.1 (9)	217.6 (7)	358.7 (9)
Ohio	34.3 (2)	221.8 (3)	220.5 (5)	442.2 (3)
Toledo	27.3 (8)	224.5 (2)	209.6 (8)	434.1 (4)
Western Michigan	33.1 (3)	205.1 (5)	240.6 (4)	445.7 (2)

Defense

	SCORING	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
Akron	36.3 (11)	213.5 (9)	200.4 (2)	413.9 (6)
Ball State	31.4 (8)	179.6 (6)	245.1 (11)	424.7 (8)
Bowling Green	38.6 (12)	242.8 (11)	224.3 (5)	467.2 (10)
Buffalo	21.3 (1)	94.2 (1)	197.8 (1)	291.9 (1)
Central Michigan	28.3 (6)	122.8 (2)	240.2 (10)	363.0 (2)
Eastern Michigan	30.6 (7)	194.2 (8)	236.2 (7)	430.5 (9)
Kent State	31.8 (9)	244.7 (12)	228.8 (6)	473.5 (11)
Miami	28.1 (4)	172.7 (4)	209.2 (4)	381.9 (3)
Northern Illinois	28.2 (5)	177.9 (5)	208.6 (3)	386.5 (4)
Ohio	26.5 (3)	166.3 (3)	237.4 (8)	403.7 (5)
Toledo	32.2 (10)	218.4 (10)	257.3 (12)	475.7 (12)
Western Michigan	25.9 (2)	181.6 (7)	238.1 (9)	419.7 (7)

Plitt: Ball State Athletics; Morris: BGSU Athletics; Heflin: NIU Athletics

ALL-MAC TEAM

First-Team Offense

QB	**Dustin Crum**	6-3	201	Sr.	Kent State
RB	**Caleb Huntley**	5-10	226	Sr.	Ball State
RB	**Jaret Patterson**	5-9	195	Jr.	Buffalo
AP	**Kalil Pimpleton**	5-9	175	Jr.	Central Michigan
WR	**Skyy Moore**	5-9	195	So.	Western Michigan
WR	**Isaiah McKoy**	6-3	182	Jr.	Kent State
TE	**Quintin Morris**	6-4	248	Sr.	Bowling Green
C	**Bryce Harris**	6-3	292	Sr.	Toledo
OL	**Kayode Awosika**	6-5	305	Sr.	Buffalo
OL	**Nick Rosi**	6-4	290	So.	Toledo
OL	**Jaylon Moore**	6-5	315	Sr.	Western Michigan
OL	**Tommy Doyle**	6-8	326	Sr.	Miami (Ohio)

Quintin Morris

Jack Heflin

First-Team Defense

DL	**Taylor Riggins**	6-2	255	Sr.	Buffalo
DL	**Malcolm Koonce**	6-3	250	Sr.	Buffalo
DL	**Jack Heflin**	6-4	319	Sr.	Northern Illinois
DL	**Ali Fayad**	6-2	255	Sr.	Western Michigan
LB	**Treshaun Hayward**	6-1	225	Sr.	Western Michigan
LB	**Troy Brown**	6-2	205	Jr.	Central Michigan
LB	**Jaylin Thomas**	6-1	231	Sr.	Ball State
CB	**Antonio Phillips**	6-0	188	Sr.	Ball State
CB	**Emmanuel Rugamba**	5-11	190	Sr.	Miami (Ohio)
S	**Tyrone Hill**	6-1	205	Sr.	Buffalo
S	**Sterling Weatherford**	6-4	218	Jr.	Miami (Ohio)

First-Team Specialists

K	**Matthew Trickett**	6-0	191	Jr.	Kent State
P	**Matt Ference**	5-11	198	Sr.	Northern Illinois
KR	**Michael Mathison**	5-10	160	So.	Akron
PR	**Kalil Pimpleton**	5-9	175	Jr.	Central Michigan

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	**Drew Plitt**	6-2	215	Sr.	Ball State
RB	**Bryant Koback**	6-0	205	Jr.	Toledo
RB	**Kobe Lewis**	5-11	208	Jr.	Central Michigan
AP	**Justin Hall**	5-9	181	Sr.	Ball State
WR	**Antonio Nunn**	5-11	200	Sr.	Buffalo
WR	**Bryce Mitchell**	6-3	207	Sr.	Toledo
TE	**Tony Poljan**	6-7	258	Sr.	Central Michigan
C	**Danny Godlevske**	6-3	296	Sr.	Miami (Ohio)
OL	**Luke Goedeke**	6-5	295	Jr.	Central Michigan
OL	**Curtis Blackwell**	6-5	304	Sr.	Ball State
OL	**Mike Caliendo**	6-4	300	Sr.	Western Michigan
OL	**Derek Smith**	6-5	295	Sr.	Central Michigan

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	**Kameron Butler**	6-3	252	Jr.	Miami (Ohio)
DL	**Robi Stuart**	6-3	300	Sr.	Central Michigan
DL	**Jamal Hines**	6-3	250	Jr.	Toledo
DL	**LaQuan Johnson**	6-3	260	So.	Central Michigan
LB	**Kyle Pugh**	6-0	225	Sr.	Northern Illinois
LB	**Kholbe Coleman**	6-0	220	Sr.	Bowling Green
LB	**Kadofi Wright**	6-3	225	Sr.	Buffalo
CB	**Amechi Uzodinma**	5-11	182	Jr.	Ball State
CB	**Patrick Lupro**	5-10	185	Jr.	Western Michigan
S	**Devonni Reed**	6-0	195	Jr.	Central Michigan
S	**Keith Sherald Jr.**	5-9	174	Sr.	Kent State

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	**John Richardson**	5-11	191	So.	Northern Illinois
P	**Jake Julien**	6-2	210	Sr.	Eastern Michigan
KR	**Bryson Denley**	5-10	178	Sr.	Bowling Green
PR	**Dylan Drummond**	6-0	181	Jr.	Eastern Michigan

Justin Hall
Ball State

O'Shaan Allison
Ohio

Bubba Arslanian
Akron

Samuel Womack
Toledo

THIRD-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	**Brett Gabbert**	6-0	212	So.	Miami (Ohio)
RB	**O'Shaan Allison**	5-10	205	So.	Ohio
RB	**Kevin Marks**	6-0	200	Jr.	Buffalo
AP	**Andrew Clair**	5-11	205	Jr.	Bowling Green
WR	**Quian Williams**	6-0	187	Jr.	Eastern Michigan
WR	**JaCorey Sullivan**	6-2	220	Sr.	Central Michigan
TE	**Mitchell Brinkman**	6-3	252	Sr.	Northern Illinois
C	**Mike Novitsky**	6-5	295	So.	Buffalo
OL	**Sidy Sow**	6-5	324	Jr.	Eastern Michigan
OL	**Brett Kitrell**	6-3	302	Sr.	Ohio
OL	**Julian Sams**	6-3	260	Jr.	Kent State
OL	**Kaleb Slaven**	6-4	286	Sr.	Ball State

THIRD-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	**Ralph Holley**	6-2	285	Sr.	Western Michigan
DL	**Austin Conrad**	6-2	245	Sr.	Ohio
DL	**Andrew Sharp**	6-4	267	Jr.	Miami (Ohio)
DL	**Matt Lorbeck**	6-4	255	Sr.	Northern Illinois
LB	**Bubba Arslanian**	5-9	205	Jr.	Akron
LB	**Jared Dorsa**	6-2	235	Sr.	Ohio
LB	**Ryan McWood**	6-2	229	Sr.	Miami (Ohio)
CB	**Kyron McKinnie-Harper**	6-1	185	So.	Central Michigan
CB	**Samuel Womack**	5-10	185	Sr.	Toledo
S	**Jarren Hampton**	5-10	197	Sr.	Ohio
S	**Mike Brown**	6-1	214	Sr.	Miami (Ohio)

THIRD-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	**Chad Ryland**	6-0	182	Jr.	Eastern Michigan
P	**Matt Naranjo**	5-10	195	Sr.	Bowling Green
KR	**Dylan Drummond**	6-0	181	Jr.	Eastern Michigan
PR	**Devin Maddox**	5-9	175	So.	Toledo

Hall: Ball State Athletics; Allison: Abigail Dean/Ohio; Arslanian: Akron; Womack: Daniel Miller/Toledo

AKRON Zips

National Forecast: **127** · MAC East Prediction: **6** · Projected Record: **3-9, 0-8 MAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Youngstown State
Sept.	12	at New Mexico State
Sept.	19	at Clemson
Sept.	26	Miami (Ohio)
Oct.	3	at Buffalo
Oct.	10	at Kent State
Oct.	17	Massachusetts
Oct.	24	at Ball State
Oct.	31	Toledo
Nov.	14	Bowling Green
Nov.	21	Western Michigan
Nov.	27	at Ohio

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 0-12, 0-8 MAC

Aug.	31	at Illinois	L	3-42
Sept.	7	UAB	L	20-31
Sept.	14	at Central Michigan	L	24-45
Sept.	21	Troy	L	7-35
Sept.	28	at Massachusetts	L	29-37
Oct.	12	Kent State	L	3-26
Oct.	19	Buffalo	L	0-21
Oct.	26	at Northern Illinois	L	0-49
Nov.	2	at Bowling Green	L	6-35
Nov.	12	Eastern Michigan	L	14-42
Nov.	20	at Miami (Ohio)	L	17-20
Nov.	26	Ohio	L	3-52

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Isiah Childs, LB, Wamego, KS
2. Janirr Wade, DE, Stone Mountain, GA
3. Woobendy Guerrier, CB, Homestead, FL*
4. Juan Jarrett, LB, Cincinnati, OH
5. MyJaden Horton, QB, West Chester, OH
6. Teon Dollard, RB, Lake City, FL*
7. Chukwudifu Ogbonna, S, Marietta, GA
8. Joey Marousek, QB, North Royalton, OH
9. Ronan Chambers, OT, Lakewood, OH
10. Konata Mumpfield, ATH, Dacula, GA

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	10.5 ppg	12	130
Rushing	47.6 ypg	12	130
Passing	195.6 ypg	9	100
Total	243.2 ypg	12	130
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	36.3 ppg	11	122
Rushing	213.5 ypg	9	116
Passing	200.4 ypg	2	29
Total	413.9 ypg	6	83
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
-15	-1.25	12	128

STAT CORNER

0.810

Akron was the only FBS offense to score less than a point per possession (0.810). Akron ranked last in points per play (0.174) and yards per possession (19.85).

OFFENSE No team in the nation was more anemic offensively than the 2019 Zips — and it wasn't close. Akron struggled despite returning a solid quarterback in Kato Nelson, who has started 26 games over the past three years and has produced a highly respectable 624 rushing yards and 4,960 passing yards during his career. Nelson returns for his senior season this fall and is expected to start, although redshirt freshman Zach Gibson and recruit Ryan Jankowski could be called upon quickly if the team struggles.

The Zips are sorely lacking proven talent at the skill positions. An already-struggling ground attack hit rock bottom last season, when Akron averaged a national-worst 1.8 yards per carry and 47.6 rushing yards per game. Sophomore Peter Hayes-Patrick is the top returning running back, and he managed just 138 yards on 41 carries with a long run of 11 yards. The Zips recruited just two running backs, so they apparently have faith in Hayes-Patrick and fellow sophomore Michiah Burton.

Head coach Tom Arth added to the receiving corps with 6'2" junior college transfer George Qualls, who starred at Butler Community College last season. Akron's top four receivers from last year return, headed by 6'2" senior Nate Stewart (37 catches, 529 yards, three TDs).

The Zips have a pair of two-year starters returning up front in junior guard Hunter Corne and senior center Bryce Petersen. But the line must also make major strides after giving up 57 sacks last season.

DEFENSE The Zips gave up more than 30 points nine times last year, and three of the top four tacklers from 2019 are gone. Only two players return who have started 10 or more games — senior defensive end Dylan Meeks (11) and sophomore defensive back Randy Cochran (10).

Meeks (47 tackles), a fourth-year letterman, headlines the defensive line along with fellow returning starter and senior JaQuize Cross at tackle. A freshman to watch is Julius Hawkins.

Akron will build around junior Bubba Arslanian, an undersized (5'9", 205) yet ultra-aggressive inside linebacker who ranked second on the team last season in tackles (125) and sacks (two). No other linebacker has started more than four games for the Zips.

Cochran (five pass breakups) will spearhead the secondary, the most experienced group on defense. Juniors Jalen Hooks and Jordyn Riley started several games at corner last year along with sophomore A.J. Watts. A sophomore safety with potential is Reggie Corner Jr. Junior college transfer Charles Amankwaa could make an immediate impact in the secondary along with incoming freshman DiMarco Johnson.

SPECIALISTS Cory Smigel took over the kicking chores midway through last season and hit 5-of-6 field goals. Junior punter Jonah Wieland is also back after averaging 37.7 yards per punt.

FINAL ANALYSIS Arth has cleaned house since taking over the program. He started seven true freshmen last year, and that number could increase this fall. He's trying to change the culture at Akron, and that typically takes time. The Zips' lack of proven firepower on offense is particularly alarming. Until that changes, the program will struggle to compete in the high-octane MAC.

Kato Nelson

"This is the season where you identify a win or two and go hard on that and then stay extremely consistent in messaging your culture. It's a long road."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (5)				
WR	**2**	**Nate Stewart (Sr.)**	3	Michael Mathison (So.)
WR	82	Jeremiah Knight (Jr.)	**17**	**Julian Hicks (Jr.)**
WR	88	Timothy Scippio (Jr.)		George Qualls (Jr.)
LT	77	Xavior Gray (Fr.)	78	Austin Sample (Sr.)
LG	71	Shawn Muldowney II (Jr.)	73	Owen Murphy (Fr.)
C	**53**	**Bryce Petersen (Sr.)**	75	Jordan Daniels (Fr.)
RG	**72**	**Hunter Corne (Jr.)**	62	Vincent Fonte Jr. (So.)
RT	99	Eric Bentley (So.)	70	Caleb Herring (Fr.)
TE	24	Maverick Wolfley (So.)	84	Kenyon Sholty (Fr.)
QB	**1**	**Kato Nelson (Sr.)**	15	Zach Gibson (Fr.)
RB	25	Peter Hayes-Patrick (So.)	36	Michiah Burton (So.)

DEFENSE (6)				Returning Starters in Bold
DE	**44**	**Dylan Meeks (Sr.)**		Julius Hawkins (Fr.)
DT	**91**	**JaQuize Cross (Sr.)**	67	Logan Hawkins (So.)
DT	94	John Mitchell (Sr.)	92	Michael Stuhldreer (Sr.)
DE	16	Justin Sampson (Sr.)	90	Bryce Wilson (So.)
MLB	**27**	**Bubba Arslanian (Jr.)**	9	Demetrick Watts (Sr.)
MLB	3	DeMarkus Glover (Sr.)	60	Dean Ramicone (Sr.)
OLB	22	Brandon Bischof (Jr.)	5	Michael Scott (Jr.)
CB	**31**	**A.J. Watts (So.)**		DiMarco Johnson (Fr.)
CB	**6**	**Jordyn Riley (Jr.)**	29	Jalen Hooks (Jr.)
SS	21	Reggie Corner Jr. (So.)	24	Adetutu Daranijo (So.)
FS	**1**	**Randy Cochran Jr. (So.)**	12	Charles Amankwaa (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	41	Cory Smigel (So.)	**KR**	3	Michael Mathison (So.)
P	38	Jonah Wieland (Jr.)	**PR**	82	Jeremiah Knight (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Kato Nelson, 280-151-1,820-6, 11 TDs
Rushing: Peter Hayes-Patrick, 41 att., 138 yds., 0 TDs
Receiving: Nate Stewart, 37 rec., 529 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Bubba Arslanian, 125
Sacks: Bubba Arslanian, 2.0
Interceptions: 3 tied with 1

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Tom Arth
Record at School: 0-12 (1 year)
Career Record: 49-33 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Tommy Zagorski
Defensive Coordinator: Matt Feeney
Akron, OH • InfoCision Stadium (30,000)

Jeff Harwell

BOWLING GREEN Falcons

National Forecast: **126** ·MAC East Prediction: **5** · Projected Record: **2-10, 1-7 MAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at Ohio State
Sept.	12	Robert Morris
Sept.	19	at Illinois
Sept.	26	Buffalo
Oct.	3	Liberty
Oct.	10	Miami (Ohio)
Oct.	17	at Toledo
Oct.	24	at Ohio
Nov.	4	Kent State
Nov.	14	at Akron
Nov.	21	at Eastern Michigan
Nov.	27	Northern Illinois

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 3-9, 2-6 MAC

Aug.	29	Morgan State	W	46-3
Sept.	7	at Kansas State	L	0-52
Sept.	14	Louisiana Tech	L	7-35
Sept.	21	at Kent State	L	20-62
Oct.	5	at Notre Dame	L	0-52
Oct.	12	Toledo	W	20-7
Oct.	19	Central Michigan	L	20-38
Oct.	26	at Western Michigan	L	10-49
Nov.	2	Akron	W	35-6
Nov.	13	at Miami (Ohio)	L	3-44
Nov.	19	Ohio	L	24-66
Nov.	29	at Buffalo	L	7-49

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Deshawn Jones Jr., CB, Akron, OH
2. Tucker Melton, QB, Phenix City, AL
3. Billie Roberts, DE, Muskegon, MI
4. Levi Gazarek, TE, North Baltimore, OH
5. Javonte Kinsey, WR, Jacksonville, FL
6. Elijah Eberhardt, CB, Cincinnati, OH
7. Riley Keller, QB, Toledo, OH
8. Griffin Little, TE, Fort Wayne, IN
9. Jordan Porter, DE, Muskegon, MI
10. Aaron Washington, LB, Atlanta, GA

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	16.0 ppg	11	128
Rushing	161.8 ypg	8	65
Passing	157.3 ypg	11	120
Total	319.1 ypg	10	120
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	38.6 ppg	12	126
Rushing	242.8 ypg	11	126
Passing	224.3 ypg	5	64
Total	467.2 ypg	10	117
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
-6	-0.50	8	103

STAT CORNER

0.229

The Falcons averaged just 0.229 points per play and 1.0 point per possession in 2019, which ranked No. 128 and No. 129, respectively, in FBS.

OFFENSE The keys to this unit have been handed to Boston College transfer Matt McDonald, who hasn't played much the past three seasons. After a redshirt year at BC, McDonald threw just eight passes in 2018 there, and then sat out last season with the Falcons. His advantage is familiarity with the offense, since Bowling Green head coach Scot Loeffler was the offensive coordinator at BC before taking over the Bowling Green program.

Junior running back Andrew Clair will lead the rushing attack as he comes back from an injury-shortened 2019 after earning All-MAC honors the previous two seasons. Senior Bryson Denley provides depth and balance behind Clair.

The passing game hopes to get going after averaging a modest 157.3 yards per game in 2019. Senior tight end Quintin Morris, who has appeared in 35 games for the Falcons with 23 starts, is the top target after catching 55 passes last season.

The experience level is thin up front, with senior guard Tim Tanner-Blair and junior tackle Derek Downs the only returning Falcons who logged significant starting time in 2019.

DEFENSE This unit got battered a season ago, giving up 38.6 points per game and almost 3,000 rushing yards. Junior Karl Brooks is the most seasoned player up front, starting all 12 games last year and recording 33 tackles and 4.5 sacks. Leadership needs to come from senior tackle DeMontae Haigler and senior Roland Walder, who moves to end after playing linebacker the past two years.

The current linebacking corps is led by senior Kholbe Coleman, who has played in 36 games for BG and earned All-MAC honors last season, when he led the Falcons with 103 tackles.

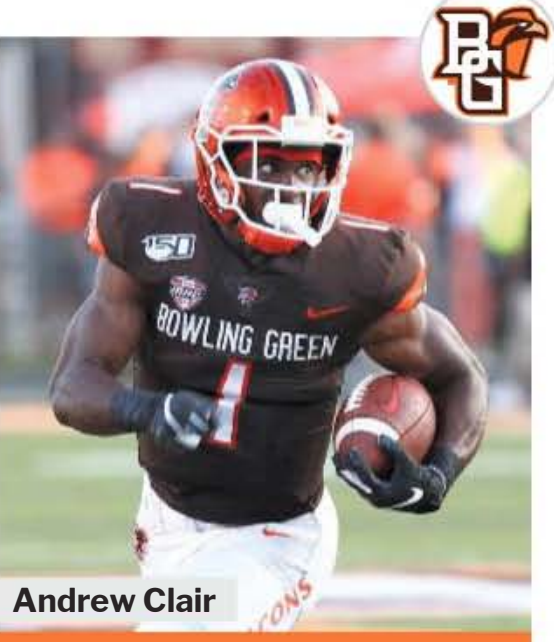
The secondary needs to make a quantum leap in its effectiveness after allowing the opposition to complete nearly 67 percent of its passes last season. Junior cornerback Caleb Biggers, who had a 100-yard fumble return for a touchdown last season, and senior safety Jerry McBride III, coming back from an injury-shortened 2019, are expected to lead the group.

SPECIALISTS There is experience and stability in this group, with senior kicker Nate Needham and senior punter Matt Naranjo both starting for the third season. Needham has hit 11 field goals over the past two seasons, while Naranjo averaged 40.4 yards per punt last year.

FINAL ANALYSIS The rebuild job Loeffler faced when he arrived from Boston College for his first head-coaching assignment was a considerable one; the Falcons won MAC championships in 2013 and 2015 but have just 12 total wins over the past four seasons. Loeffler, an Ohio native and former quarterback at Michigan whose résumé includes work in the NFL and stops at Michigan, Florida, Auburn, Virginia Tech and BC, appears to have the staff and recruiting prowess to right the ship, but there's far too much youth on the roster for that to happen soon.

Much of the Falcons' fate for 2020 falls on the shoulders of McDonald, who doesn't have a lot of proven talent around him.

The defense will have to show vast improvement to keep the Falcons in any game after this unit got shredded in 2019, surrendering 60 total touchdowns.



Andrew Clair

"They're set up for the long-term rebuild, which they should be. I think with Scot's offense, they could turn some heads this year and use that in recruiting."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)				
WR	86	Tyrone Broden (Fr.)	2	Javonte Kinsey (Fr.)
WR	**17**	**Julian Ortega-Jones (So.)**	5	Noah Massey (So.)
LT	73	Joe Ware (Sr.)	50	Alex Wollschlaeger (Fr.)
LG	63	Sam Neverov (Jr.)	78	Joe Maxwell (So.)
C	79	Cameron Stage (So.)	61	Kellen Adler (Fr.)
RG	**69**	**Tim Tanner-Blair (Sr.)**	70	John O'Brian (So.)
RT	**72**	**Derek Downs (Jr.)**	76	Luke Harmon (Fr.)
TE	82	Presley Motes (Sr.)	87	Joey Carroll (Fr.)
TE	**80**	**Quintin Morris (Sr.)**	88	Christian Sims (So.)
QB	3	Matt McDonald (Jr.)	15	Tucker Melton (Fr.)
RB	**1**	**Andrew Clair (Jr.)**	**12**	**Bryson Denley (Sr.)**
DEFENSE (6)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	9	Roland Walder (Sr.)	50	Blaine Spires (Fr.)
NT	35	DeMontae Haigler (Sr.)	53	Chris Oliver (So.)
DT	56	Walter Haire (Jr.)	85	Jevon Henderson (Fr.)
DE	**44**	**Karl Brooks (Jr.)**	95	Andrew Bench (Fr.)
OLB	**55**	**Kholbe Coleman (Sr.)**	3	Evan Brown (Jr.)
MLB	37	Darren Anders (So.)	34	Brock Horne (Fr.)
OLB	**33**	**Jerry Roberts (Jr.)**	6	Isaiah Johnson-Mack (Sr.)
CB	**2**	**Caleb Biggers (Jr.)**	19	Davin Wilson (Fr.)
CB	25	Ty Redding (Sr.)	26	Davion Daniels (Fr.)
SS	5	Sy Dabney (Jr.)	**7**	**Jerry McBride III (Sr.)**
FS	**18**	**Jordan Anderson (So.)**	11	Cedric Mitchell (Jr.)
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	39	Nate Needham (Sr.)	**KR** 12	Bryson Denley (Sr.)
P	96	Matt Naranjo (Sr.)	**PR** 14	Jake Rogers (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Presley Motes, 1-0-0-0, 0 TDs
Rushing: Bryson Denley, 111 att., 544 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Quintin Morris, 55 rec., 649 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Kholbe Coleman, 103
Sacks: Karl Brooks, 4.5
Interceptions: 4 tied with 1

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Scot Loeffler
Record at School: 3-9 (1 year)
Career Record: 3-9 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Terry Malone
Defensive Coordinator: Brian VanGorder
Bowling Green, OH • Doyt Perry Stadium (24,000)

Scott W. Grau

BUFFALO Bulls

National Forecast: **73** · MAC East Prediction: **1** · Projected Record: **9-4, 6-2 MAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at Kansas State
Sept.	12	Saint Francis (Pa.)
Sept.	19	at Ohio State
Sept.	26	at Bowling Green
Oct.	3	Akron
Oct.	10	Ball State
Oct.	17	Kent State
Oct.	24	at Army
Nov.	3	at Northern Illinois
Nov.	10	Miami (Ohio)
Nov.	18	at Ohio
Nov.	27	at Western Michigan

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5, 5-3 MAC

Aug.	29	Robert Morris	W	38-10
Sept.	7	at Penn State	L	13-45
Sept.	14	at Liberty	L	17-35
Sept.	21	Temple	W	38-22
Sept.	28	at Miami (Ohio)	L	20-34
Oct.	5	Ohio (ot)	L	20-21
Oct.	19	at Akron	W	21-0
Oct.	26	Central Michigan	W	43-20
Nov.	2	at Eastern Michigan	W	43-14
Nov.	14	at Kent State	L	27-30
Nov.	20	Toledo	W	49-30
Nov.	29	Bowling Green	W	49-7
Dec.	20	vs. Charlotte #	W	31-9

#Bahamas Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. George Wolo, DT, Olney, MD
2. Bryce Johnson-Maith, DE, Baltimore, MD
3. Jalen McNair, S, Olney, MD
4. Casey Case, QB, Winter Park, FL
5. Kolbe Burrell, RB, Philadelphia, PA
6. Deondre Doiron, OG, London, ON
7. Michael Tetteh, DT, Bronx, NY
8. Lonnie Rice, S, Wyncote, PA
9. Michael Ford Jr., OG, Flossmoor, IL
10. Tyree O'Neil, WR, Portland OR*

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	31.5 ppg	4	46
Rushing	250.5 ypg	1	10
Passing	138.1 ypg	12	122
Total	388.5 ypg	8	82
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	21.3 ppg	1	26
Rushing	94.2 ypg	1	4
Passing	197.8 ypg	1	22
Total	291.9 ypg	1	7
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
+8	+0.62	2	19

STAT CORNER

6.54%

The Bulls allowed just 28 runs of 10 yards or more across 428 attempts last season, a 6.54 percent rate that led the nation.

OFFENSE Buffalo brings back 99 percent of its production from the most prolific offense in school history.

The Bulls amassed 388.5 yards per game last season, 250 coming from a ground game that featured the nation's top tandem. All-MAC running back Jaret Patterson led the way, ranking fifth in the country and setting school records with 1,799 yards rushing and 19 touchdowns. Kevin Marks complemented him with 1,035 yards and eight touchdowns.

Quarterback Matt Myers started the first five games as a redshirt freshman. He gave the Bulls another running threat before he sustained a season-ending neck injury. Kyle Vantrease provided a steady hand the rest of the way, completing 59 percent of his passes and turning the ball over just three times while the Bulls went 6–2 with the sophomore starting. Myers returned for spring practices following neck surgery. Vantrease, who was also Buffalo's punter for a couple games, sat out the spring to heal a foot injury.

Buffalo lacked playmakers in the passing game outside of Antonio Nunn, who battled through injury to finish with 49 receptions for 687 yards and six TDs. Tight end Zac Lefebvre formed an early connection with Myers, catching a pair of touchdowns in the opener, but he was limited by injury for much of the season. Blocking tight end Jake Molinich started every game but didn't catch a pass all season.

Kayode Awosika moves over from right to left tackle on an offensive line that loses three starters after ranking among the nation's best.

DEFENSE After leading the MAC in total defense, the bulk of the front seven returns, including sack leaders Malcolm Koonce (9.0) and Taylor Riggins (8.5). The 320-pound Eddie Wilson anchors a run defense that ranked fourth in the country.

James Patterson moves to middle linebacker after playing outside his first two seasons. Patterson captained the defense as a sophomore but missed three games with a nerve ailment. Kadofi Wright was a second-team All-MAC pick at outside linebacker and Tim Terry emerged when Patterson was out. Keith Woetzel is a graduate transfer from Lehigh, where he made the FCS All-America third team.

Alongside second-team All-MAC safety Tyrone Hill, junior college transfer E.J. Brown, a former West Virginia recruit, will compete for the starting spot with Cory Gross Jr. Aapri Washington is a reliable returning starter at corner.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Alex McNulty was consistent over the second half of the season. But he struggled early before being replaced by Jackson Baltar, who missed a late field goal and an overtime PAT in a loss to Ohio. Allowing a blocked punt and onside kick recovery contributed to Buffalo squandering a 21-point fourth-quarter lead at Kent State. Punter Evan Finegan rehabilitated a gruesome leg fracture and returned for spring practices.

FINAL ANALYSIS Buffalo celebrated its first bowl victory by extending the contract of Lance Leipold, who has led the Bulls to a 24–15 record over the past three seasons, the longest run of sustained success since the program returned to Division I in 1999. With so many key players returning, Leipold expects the Bulls to contend for the MAC championship that has eluded them and make a run at the 10-win standard set two seasons ago.

Jaret Patterson

"The running back (Jaret Patterson) is a dynamic player and a home-run threat from anywhere on the field. He might be the best player in the conference."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**1**	**Antonio Nunn (Sr.)**	86	Carlton Todd (Sr.)
WR	3	Daniel Lee (Sr.)	9	Dominic Johnson (Sr.)
LT	**73**	**Kayode Awosika (Sr.)**	76	Anthony Laudicina (Fr.)
LG	66	Jacob Gall (Jr.)	69	Gabe Wallace (So.)
C	**62**	**Mike Novitsky (So.)**	74	Bence Polgar (So.)
RG	79	Jack Klenk (Sr.)		Ray-Thomas Ishman (Sr.)
RT	59	Jake Fuzak (Sr.)	77	Caelan Shepard (Fr.)
TE	**89**	**Zac Lefebvre (Sr.)**	85	Julien Bourassa (Jr.)
TE	**44**	**Jake Molinich (Sr.)**	36	Cole Burniston (So.)
QB	**7**	**Kyle Vantrease (Jr.)**	10	Matt Myers (So.)
RB	**26**	**Jaret Patterson (Jr.)**	5	Kevin Marks (Jr.)

DEFENSE (7) — Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**50**	**Malcolm Koonce (Sr.)**	99	Frendy Darelus (Jr.)
DT	91	Eddie Wilson (Jr.)	95	Tyrece Woods Jr. (So.)
DT	92	Ronald McGee (Jr.)	54	DeShondrick Foxworth (Sr.)
DE	**49**	**Taylor Riggins (Sr.)**	6	Max Michel (So.)
OLB	**5**	**Tim Terry Jr. (Jr.)**		Keith Woetzel (Sr.)
MLB	**20**	**James Patterson (Jr.)**	30	Rich Miller (So.)
OLB	**31**	**Kadofi Wright (Sr.)**	21	Justin Mulbah (Sr.)
CB	**3**	**Aapri Washington (Jr.)**	15	Ali Abbas (Sr.)
CB	18	Roy Baker (Sr.)	11	Wankeith Akin Jr. (Jr.)
SS	27	E.J. Brown (Sr.)	24	Cory Gross Jr. (So.)
FS	**33**	**Tyrone Hill (Sr.)**	8	Marcus Fuqua (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	16	Alex McNulty (So.)	**KR**	23	Ron Cook Jr. (So.)
P	40	Evan Finegan (Jr.)	**PR**	4	Isaiah King (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Kyle Vantrease, 172-101-1,193-2, 8 TDs
Rushing: Jaret Patterson, 312 att., 1,799 yds., 19 TDs
Receiving: Antonio Nunn, 49 rec., 687 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Tyrone Hill, 70
Sacks: Malcolm Koonce, 9.0
Interceptions: Aapri Washington, Kadofi Wright, 2

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Lance Leipold
Record at School: 31-32 (4 years)
Career Record: 140-38 (12 years)
Offensive Coordinators: Andy Kotelnicki, Jim Zembrowski
Defensive Coordinators: Brian Borland, Chris Simpson
Buffalo, NY • UB Stadium (29,013)

Paul Hokanson/UBBulls.com

KENT STATE Golden Flashes

National Forecast: **103** · MAC East Prediction: **4** · Projected Record: **5-7, 4-4 MAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at Penn State
Sept.	12	Kennesaw State
Sept.	19	at Kentucky
Sept.	26	at Alabama
Oct.	3	at Northern Illinois
Oct.	10	Akron
Oct.	17	at Buffalo
Oct.	24	Western Michigan
Nov.	4	at Bowling Green
Nov.	11	Ohio
Nov.	17	at Miami (Ohio)
Nov.	24	Central Michigan

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 7-6, 5-3 MAC

Aug.	29	at Arizona State	L	7-30
Sept.	7	Kennesaw State (ot)	W	26-23
Sept.	14	at Auburn	L	16-55
Sept.	21	Bowling Green	W	62-20
Oct.	5	at Wisconsin	L	0-48
Oct.	12	at Akron	W	26-3
Oct.	19	at Ohio	L	38-45
Oct.	26	Miami (Ohio)	L	16-23
Nov.	5	at Toledo	L	33-35
Nov.	14	Buffalo	W	30-27
Nov.	23	Ball State	W	41-38
Nov.	29	at Eastern Michigan	W	34-26
Dec.	20	vs. Utah State #	W	51-41

#Frisco Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Tyler Berrong, LB, Port Orange, FL
2. CJ West, DT, La Grange Park, IL
3. Luke Floriea, WR, Mentor, OH
4. Michael West, DE, Saint Louis, MO
5. Griffin Brewster, QB, Rome, GA
6. Tyler Roberson, DE, Louisville, KY
7. Reignings Awah, DE, Mississauga, ON
8. Jasper Robinson, TE, Canton, OH
9. Savion Washington, OT, Akron, OH
10. Marcellus Marshall, OT, Morgantown, WV

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	29.2 ppg	6	63
Rushing	186.7 ypg	6	40
Passing	218.9 ypg	6	78
Total	405.6 ypg	6	66
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	31.8 ppg	9	97
Rushing	244.7 ypg	12	127
Passing	228.8 ypg	6	68
Total	473.5 ypg	11	121
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
+6	+0.46	4	27

STAT CORNER

0.56%

Kent State quarterbacks were intercepted on only two of 355 pass attempts last season, for an interception rate of just 0.56 percent — lowest in the country.

OFFENSE Dustin Crum entered last season as a backup quarterback for the Golden Flashes, and he ended 2019 by outdueling Utah State pro prospect Jordan Love in the Frisco Bowl to give Kent State its first-ever postseason victory. Crum (6'3", 201) is one of the top dual-threat signal-callers in the nation heading into his senior year.

Crum's favorite target is 6'3" junior Isaiah McKoy, who caught 56 passes for 872 yards and scored eight touchdowns last season — all covering 21 yards or more. Antwan Dixon is a small but quick and steady senior wideout who recovered from a rare blood disorder that forced him to undergo a life-saving bone marrow transplant three years ago.

Kent State has a solid one-two punch at running back with speedy junior Xavier Williams and physical sophomore Joachim Bangda. Freshman Marquez Cooper, who scored 51 touchdowns in two years at Quince Orchard (Md.) High School, could emerge.

The Flashes return three starters from an offensive line that improved dramatically over the course of last season, but they must find a new center — a critical leadership position in head coach Sean Lewis's up-tempo offense. Julian Sams could move inside from guard to fill that spot.

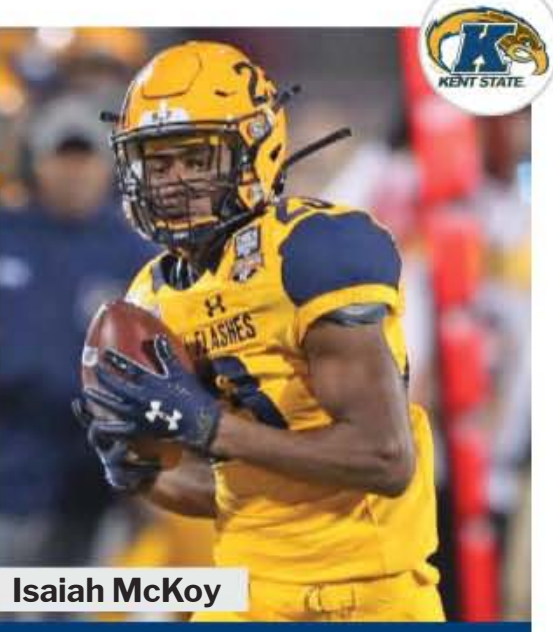
DEFENSE The Flashes play equally fast on defense, aiming to be opportunistic more than dominant. They gave up over 470 yards and nearly 32 points per game last season, but managed to come up with stops in pivotal situations during their season-ending four-game winning streak.

Kent State must shore up a rush defense that was gouged in 2019. The Flashes are undersized up front — 320-pound sophomore nose tackle Buddha Jones is the only returning letterman who weighs over 260. They added size with junior college transfer Nadir Pineda (270) and 305-pound freshman CJ West, who could provide immediate help in the trenches.

The top three tacklers from last season are back in senior linebackers Mandela Lawrence-Burke (104 tackles, 5.5 tackles for a loss, four sacks) and Cepeda Phillips (93 tackles, 6.5 TFLs) and senior safety Keith Sherald (86 tackles, three interceptions). Elvis Hines is a solid cover corner with 36 career games under his belt. The unit could also get a boost from a Power 5 graduate transfer, Nebraska defensive back Tony Butler.

SPECIALISTS Junior Matthew Trickett was named 2019 MAC Special Teams Player of the Year after setting a school record with 29 made field goals in 34 attempts, including three game-winners. The Flashes took a hit when All-MAC punter Derek Adams decided to transfer. Junior Ian Henzi and freshman Josh Smith will vie for the punting chores.

FINAL ANALYSIS Sean Lewis remains the youngest FBS coach in the country but will be one of the most coveted by Power 5 programs searching for new leaders next winter if he can engineer another winning season at Kent State. With Crum at the helm of an experienced offense that averaged 39 points during the season-ending four-game winning streak, the Flashes certainly have the pieces in place to make some major noise in the MAC. But they'll have to deal with high expectations for the first time, as well as a brutally difficult September schedule.



Isaiah McKoy

"They're a high-energy bunch, but they have a lot to replace on both lines. Also, how do they handle winning? It's a massive psychology change at that place."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR	80	Keshunn Abram (Sr.)	83	Lon'kevious McFadden (So.)
WR	10	Antwan Dixon (Sr.)	27	Isaac Vance (Jr.)
WR	**23**	**Isaiah McKoy (Jr.)**	29	Ja'Shaun Poke (So.)
LT	77	Daniel Johnson (So.)	71	Bill Kuduk (Jr.)
LG	50	Adam Tourville (Sr.)	64	Bryce Gibbs (Sr.)
C	**55**	**Julian Sams (Jr.)**	69	Sam Allan (Jr.)
RG	**67**	**Nathan Monnin (Sr.)**	56	Elijah Ratliff (So.)
RT	**75**	**Adam Gregoire (Sr.)**	73	Zach Whaley (So.)
TE	**45**	**Adam Dulka (Sr.)**	13	Keenan Orr (Jr.)
QB	**7**	**Dustin Crum (Sr.)**	15	Woody Barrett (Sr.)
RB	18	Xavier Williams (Jr.)	21	Joachim Bangda (So.)

DEFENSE (5) — Returning Starters in Bold

DE	55	Sekou Diaby (Sr.)	41	Jabbar Price (Sr.)
NT	90	Buddha Jones (So.)		Nadir Pineda (Fr.)
DE	**97**	**Zayin West (Jr.)**	59	Will Burns (So.)
OLB	34	Kesean Gamble (Sr.)	50	Sebastian Spear (Sr.)
MLB	**4**	**Cepeda Phillips (Sr.)**	35	Brandon Coleman (So.)
MLB	**28**	**M. Lawrence-Burke (Sr.)**	19	A.J. Musolino (Jr.)
OLB	44	Matt Harmon (So.)	42	Nick Curtis (So.)
CB	21	Montre Miller (So.)		Tony Butler (Sr.)
CB	**8**	**Elvis Hines (Sr.)**	39	Miles Daniel (Sr.)
S	36	Jeremiah Salaam (Jr.)	23	Dean Clark (So.)
S	**5**	**Keith Sherald Jr. (Sr.)**	26	Richie Carpenter Jr. (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	95	Matthew Trickett (Jr.)	**KR**	23	Isaiah McKoy (Jr.)
P	43	Ian Henzi (Jr.)	**PR**	12	Raymond James (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Dustin Crum, 313-217-2,625-2, 20 TDs
Rushing: Dustin Crum, 168 att., 707 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Isaiah McKoy, 56 rec., 872 yds., 8 TDs
Tackles: Mandela Lawrence-Burke, 104
Sacks: Mandela Lawrence-Burke, 4.0
Interceptions: Keith Sherald, 3

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Sean Lewis
Record at School: 9-16 (2 years)
Career Record: 9-16 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Andrew Sowder
Defensive Coordinator: Tom Kaufman
Kent, OH • Dix Stadium (25,319)

Kent State Athletics

MIAMI (OHIO) RedHawks

National Forecast: **84** · MAC East Prediction: **2** · Projected Record: **7-5, 5-3 MAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at Pittsburgh
Sept.	12	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
Sept.	19	Cincinnati
Sept.	26	at Akron
Oct.	3	Army
Oct.	10	at Bowling Green
Oct.	17	Ohio
Oct.	24	at Central Michigan
Oct.	31	Ball State
Nov.	10	at Buffalo
Nov.	17	Kent State
Nov.	27	Eastern Michigan

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-6, 6-2 MAC

Aug.	31	at Iowa	L	14-38
Sept.	7	Tennessee Tech	W	48-17
Sept.	14	at Cincinnati	L	13-35
Sept.	21	at Ohio State	L	5-76
Sept.	28	Buffalo	W	34-20
Oct.	12	at Western Michigan	L	16-38
Oct.	19	Northern Illinois	W	27-24
Oct.	26	at Kent State	W	23-16
Nov.	6	at Ohio	W	24-21
Nov.	13	Bowling Green	W	44-3
Nov.	20	Akron	W	20-17
Nov.	29	at Ball State	L	27-41
Dec.	7	vs. Central Michigan #	W	26-21
Jan.	6	vs. UL Lafayette %	L	17-27

#Detroit %Lending Tree Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. CJ Ware IV, LB, Nolensville, TN
2. Kenny Tracy, RB, Indianapolis, IN
3. Quadre Nicholson, RB, Evanston, IL
4. David Afari, RB, West Chester, OH
5. Freddy Edwards, ATH, Granite City, IL
6. TJ Rush, S, St. Louis, MO
7. Jeremiah Batiste, WR, Chattanooga, TN
8. Harrison Truitt, WR, West Lafayette, IN
9. James Bomba, TE, Bloomington, IN
10. John Saunders Jr., WR, High Point, NC

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	24.1 ppg	9	99
Rushing	130.9 ypg	10	105
Passing	178.2 ypg	10	111
Total	309.1 ypg	11	122
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	28.1 ppg	4	69
Rushing	172.7 ypg	4	81
Passing	209.2 ypg	4	40
Total	381.9 ypg	3	60
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
+2	+0.14	6	52

STAT CORNER

+5

Miami was 5–0 in games decided by a single possession, joining Minnesota (6–1) as the only FBS teams to finish +5 in such situations last year.

OFFENSE The RedHawks have found a gem in quarterback Brett Gabbert, who won MAC Freshman of the Year honors in 2019 after throwing for 2,411 yards and 11 touchdowns while leading Miami to the MAC Championship. With a year of experience, Gabbert should now be a contender for the league's top honors since he will be directing a unit with nine returning starters.

Despite being slowed by an offseason injury, Jaylon Bester returns as the top running back after accounting for 741 yards and 14 touchdowns a year ago. Tyre Shelton and Davion Johnson provide experience and depth in the backfield.

Jack Sorenson, who had eight catches for 123 yards and a touchdown in the conference title game, leads the receiver group and is joined by returning starter Jalen Walker and James Burns, who averaged 25.3 yards per catch last season as a freshman.

The line is the offense's strongest unit, with four returning starters, led by All-MAC performers Tommy Doyle and Danny Godlevske. They are joined up front by Rusty Feth and Caleb Shaffer, who had a combined 13 starts last season as true freshmen.

DEFENSE The line returns plenty of punch, led by All-MAC end Kameron Butler, who accounted for 45 tackles last season with 5.5 sacks and 14.5 tackles for a loss. Ben Kimpler is a returning starter at the other end, while Andrew Sharp started and had 35 tackles on the inside along with 4.5 sacks.

Linebacker Ryan McWood dominated the middle with a career-best 99 tackles and 5.5 tackles for a loss last season and is the unit's lone returning starter. Ivan Pace moves to linebacker after recording seven sacks as a backup at rush end, while Cecil Singleton is the likely starter at nickel.

The RedHawks are confident in their secondary with safeties Sterling Weatherford and Mike Brown back after starting all 14 games a year ago when they combined for four interceptions and 154 tackles. Emmanuel Rugamba returns at cornerback following an All-MAC 2019 season in which he had 85 tackles and eight pass breakups.

SPECIALISTS The biggest void is here, with the graduation loss of All-America kicker Sam Sloman, All-MAC punter Kyle Kramer and All-MAC punt returner Maurice Thomas. In a wide-open competition, Jacob Swartz, Henry Beckett and James Silvi are the kickers in camp, while Swartz and Conner Maynard contend for the punting job.

FINAL ANALYSIS In 2019, the methodical rebuild of the Miami program under Chuck Martin produced the program's first MAC championship since 2010 as a relatively young RedHawks team defeated Central Michigan 26–21 for the title. Martin has gone 23–8 in Miami's last 31 conference games, and with 16 returning starters, there is certainly cause for optimism. Gabbert should be even more dynamic with a proven supporting cast surrounding him. The defense was one of the league's better units a year ago. The only glaring uncertainty lies with the specialists, since the league's best kicker, return man and No. 2 punter have all graduated. With a road trip to Pittsburgh and a home date with Cincinnati looming in the first three weeks of the season, the RedHawks will have to fill in those blanks during fall camp.

Brett Gabbert

"(Brett) Gabbert could be really special, and I think you'll all be talking about him nationally this year. This is the program we're all chasing right now."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (9)				
WR	19	James Burns (So.)	6	Austin Robinson (So.)
WR	**83**	**Jalen Walker (Jr.)**	32	Brandon LaBrie (Jr.)
WR	**13**	**Jack Sorenson (Sr.)**	3	Nick Manson (Fr.)
LT	**54**	**Tommy Doyle (Sr.)**	50	Sam Vaughan (Fr.)
LG	**52**	**Caleb Shaffer (So.)**	64	David Redding (Jr.)
C	**51**	**Danny Godlevske (Sr.)**	55	Andrew Todd (So.)
RG	**60**	**Rusty Feth (So.)**	65	Pete Nank (Jr.)
RT	57	Bennett Clark (So.)	72	Ben Jackson (Fr.)
TE	**46**	**Andrew Homer (Sr.)**	87	Adam Mehelic (Jr.)
QB	**5**	**Brett Gabbert (So.)**	10	AJ Mayer (So.)
RB	1	Jaylon Bester (Sr.)	**9**	**Tyre Shelton (So.)**
DEFENSE (7)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	**95**	**Ben Kimpler (Sr.)**	11	Dominique Robinson (Sr.)
DT	**91**	**Andrew Sharp (Jr.)**	92	Austin Ertl (So.)
DT	30	Josh Maize (Jr.)	96	Kobe Hilton (Fr.)
DE	**82**	**Kameron Butler (Jr.)**	47	Lonnie Phelps (So.)
MLB	**35**	**Ryan McWood (Sr.)**	8	Luke Bolden (So.)
OLB	23	Ivan Pace Jr. (So.)	53	Nate Robinson (Jr.)
CB	**5**	**Emmanuel Rugamba (Sr.)**	18	Cedric Boswell (Sr.)
CB	24	Ja'don Rucker-Furlow (Jr.)	20	Mehki Miller (Fr.)
NB	2	Cecil Singleton (So.)	10	Trevon Booker (Fr.)
S	**3**	**Mike Brown (Sr.)**	29	Matthew Salopek (Fr.)
S	**21**	**Sterling Weatherford (Jr.)**	22	Ja'Von Kimpson (Fr.)
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	84	Henry Beckett (Fr.)	**KR** 83	Jalen Walker (Jr.)
P	30	Conner Maynard (Fr.)	**PR** 5	Emmanuel Rugamba (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Brett Gabbert, 316-175-2,411-8, 11 TDs
Rushing: Jaylon Bester, 171 att., 741 yds., 14 TDs
Receiving: Jack Sorenson, 44 rec., 568 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Ryan McWood, 99
Sacks: Ivan Pace Jr., 7.0
Interceptions: Mike Brown, 3

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Chuck Martin
Record at School: 30-45 (6 years)
Career Record: 104-52 (12 years)
Offensive Coordinators: George Barnett, Eric Koehler
Defensive Coordinators: John Hauser, Spence Nowinsky
Oxford, OH • Yager Stadium (24,286)

Ricardo Treviño Jr.

OHIO Bobcats

National Forecast: **85** · MAC East Prediction: **3** · Projected Record: **7-5, 5-3 MAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	NC Central
Sept.	12	at Boston College
Sept.	19	Marshall
Sept.	26	at Texas State
Oct.	3	at Toledo
Oct.	10	Eastern Michigan
Oct.	17	at Miami (Ohio)
Oct.	24	Bowling Green
Nov.	4	at Central Michigan
Nov.	11	at Kent State
Nov.	18	Buffalo
Nov.	27	Akron

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 7-6, 5-3 MAC

Aug.	31	Rhode Island	W	41-20
Sept.	7	at Pittsburgh	L	10-20
Sept.	14	at Marshall	L	31-33
Sept.	21	UL Lafayette	L	25-45
Oct.	5	at Buffalo (ot)	W	21-20
Oct.	12	Northern Illinois	L	36-39
Oct.	19	Kent State	W	45-38
Oct.	26	at Ball State	W	34-21
Nov.	6	Miami (Ohio)	L	21-24
Nov.	12	Western Michigan (ot)	L	34-37
Nov.	19	at Bowling Green	W	66-24
Nov.	26	at Akron	W	52-3
Jan.	3	vs. Nevada #	W	30-21

#Potato Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Keegan Wilburn, ATH, Nelsonville, OH
2. Joseph Habinowski, OT, Hollywood, FL
3. Roman Parodie, CB, Fort Lauderdale, FL
4. Peter Kemeni, CB, Mississauga, ON
5. Shedrick Rhodes Jr., OT, McDonough, GA
6. Bryce McNair, OT, Deerfield Beach, FL
7. Rodney Mathews, DT, Memphis, TN*
8. Demond Arter, OG, Washington, DC
9. CJ Harris, QB, West Bloomfield, MI
10. Cam Dorsey, LB, Alpharetta, GA

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	34.3 ppg	2	20
Rushing	221.8 ypg	3	20
Passing	220.5 ypg	5	77
Total	442.2 ypg	3	29
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	26.5 ppg	3	60
Rushing	166.3 ypg	3	77
Passing	237.4 ypg	8	83
Total	403.7 ypg	5	76
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
-4	-0.31	7	90

STAT CORNER

49.4%

Ohio converted 83 of 168 third-down opportunities, a 49.4 percent conversion rate that led the MAC and ranked No. 6 in the country.

OFFENSE There's one big question for the Bobcats: Who will replace quarterback Nathan Rourke? A nearly non-existent spring camp didn't provide any answers. Rourke, in three years as the starter, amassed more than 10,000 yards of offense, accounted for 111 touchdowns, earned three All-MAC selections and guided the Bobcats to three bowl wins. It's a pair of stadium-sized shoes that either redshirt freshman Kurtis Rourke (Nathan's brother) or freshman CJ Harris will have to try to fill.

But there's plenty of reason to believe OU can keep clicking. Ohio will return seven offensive starters and 19 of the 22 players listed on the two-deep from its win over Nevada in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl.

Ohio will be built to again be a run-first team with three offensive line starters due to return and the potent running back combo of sophomore O'Shaan Allison (869 yards, 6.3 average) and senior De'Montre Tuggle (644, 6.4, 11 TDs).

And the Bobcats could still be explosive. Flankers Isiah Cox (663 receiving yards) and Shane Hooks (515) picked up 17.0 and 19.8 yards per reception, respectively. Slot receivers Jerome Buckner and Ty Walton combined for 36 catches and 525 yards. Fifth-year senior tight end Ryan Luehrman (12.9-yard average, five TDs) gives Ohio yet another weapon.

DEFENSE Ohio had its issues in 2019, particularly early on, as the unit adjusted to new defensive coordinator Ron Collins. The Bobcats still finished in the top third in the MAC in most defensive metrics, but a lack of fourth-quarter stops and turnovers leaves the door open for a jump in 2020. The losses will be light with only two starters gone. One is safety Javon Hagan, one of the program's best, but 18 of the 24 players listed on the end-of-season two-deep return.

Ohio returns six starters in its front seven, with three-year starters Will Evans (defensive end), Dylan Conner (OLB) and Jared Dorsa (MLB) providing anchor points. Fifth-year DE Austin Conrad returns after leading the team with 4.0 sacks. OLB Keye Thompson (51 tackles, 5.5 tackles for a loss) became a starter by midseason and helped the run defense improve immediately.

And Hagan is the only loss in the secondary. Starting CBs Marlin Brooks and Ilyaas Motley are back, along with 2018 starter Jamal Hudson after an injury-shorted 2019. All told, Ohio will have seven fourth- or fifth-year players in the back end of the defense. It's not hard to see the Bobcats finding better defensive footing in 2020.

SPECIALISTS The Bobcats will have a new long snapper and two freshmen specialists — placekicker Tristian Vandenberg and punter Jack Wilson. With special teams a non-concern for the last three years, this could be an area where Ohio sees more mistakes than usual.

FINAL ANALYSIS Ohio won't be the favorite in the MAC East this season, but it remains poised to be a legitimate threat to win the division. With 16 starters back, and 37 players from the two-deep, the Bobcats have few real issues to solve. If one of the young quarterbacks clicks early, or a grad transfer arrives to bridge the gap, Ohio should at a minimum head to its sixth straight bowl and could challenge for a division title.

O'Shaan Allison

"They want to push discipline over everything else. It makes them a dogfight type of team. Recruiting-wise, they're as steady as any program can be in the MAC."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)				
WR	**3**	**Cameron Odom (Sr.)**	5	Shane Hooks (So.)
WR	8	Jerome Buckner (So.)	4	Ty Walton (So.)
WR	**6**	**Isiah Cox (Jr.)**	14	K.J. Minter (Jr.)
LT	78	Samson Jackson (Jr.)	65	Jay Amburgey (Fr.)
LG	72	Kurt Danneker (So.)	58	Bryce Ramer (So.)
C	**61**	**Brett Kitrell (Sr.)**	69	Parker Titsworth (Fr.)
RG	**76**	**Hagen Meservy (Sr.)**	79	Brody Rodgers (Jr.)
RT	**70**	**Nick Sink (Sr.)**	63	Thomas Aronokhale (Fr.)
TE	**88**	**Ryan Luehrman (Sr.)**	44	Adam Luehrman (Sr.)
QB	7	Kurtis Rourke (Fr.)	10	CJ Harris (Fr.)
RB	**28**	**O'Shaan Allison (So.)**	24	De'Montre Tuggle (Sr.)
DEFENSE (9)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	**47**	**Austin Conrad (Sr.)**	88	Amos Ogun-Semore (Jr.)
NT	**50**	**Kai Caesar (Jr.)**	54	Kylen McCracken (So.)
DT	94	Denzel Daxon (Jr.)	16	Marcus Coleman (Jr.)
DE	**9**	**Will Evans (Sr.)**	93	Vonnie Watkins (So.)
OLB	**35**	**Dylan Conner (Sr.)**	3	Jeremiah Wood (So.)
MLB	**49**	**Jared Dorsa (Sr.)**	40	Jack McCrory (So.)
OLB	**38**	**Keye Thompson (So.)**	29	T.J. Robinson (Jr.)
CB	4	Jamal Hudson (Jr.)	**22**	**Marlin Brooks (Sr.)**
CB	**23**	**Ilyaas Motley (Sr.)**	24	Xavior Motley (Sr.)
S	20	Alvin Floyd (Jr.)	5	Jamison Collier (So.)
S	**12**	**Jarren Hampton (Sr.)**	6	De'Vante Mitchell (Jr.)
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	25	Tristian Vandenberg (Fr.)	**KR**	6 Isiah Cox (Jr.)
P	43	Jack Wilson (Fr.)	**PR**	8 Jerome Buckner (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Drew Keszei, 1-1-21-0, 0 TDs
Rushing: O'Shaan Allison, 138 att., 869 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Isiah Cox, 39 rec., 663 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Dylan Conner, 83
Sacks: Austin Conrad, 4.0
Interceptions: 3 tied with 1

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Frank Solich
Record at School: 113-81 (15 years)
Career Record: 171-100 (21 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Tim Albin
Defensive Coordinators: Ron Collins, Pete Germano
Athens, OH • Peden Stadium (24,000)

Abigail Dean/Ohio Athletics

BALL STATE Cardinals

National Forecast: **97** · MAC West Prediction: **3** · Projected Record: **6-6, 5-3 MAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3	Maine
Sept.	12	at Michigan
Sept.	19	at Indiana
Sept.	26	Wyoming
Oct.	3	Western Michigan
Oct.	10	at Buffalo
Oct.	17	Northern Illinois
Oct.	24	Akron
Oct.	31	at Miami (Ohio)
Nov.	10	Eastern Michigan
Nov.	18	at Central Michigan
Nov.	24	at Toledo

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 5-7, 4-4 MAC

Aug.	31	vs. Indiana #	L	24-34
Sept.	7	Fordham	W	57-29
Sept.	14	Florida Atlantic	L	31-41
Sept.	21	at NC State	L	23-34
Oct.	5	at Northern Illinois	W	27-20
Oct.	12	at Eastern Michigan	W	29-23
Oct.	19	Toledo	W	52-14
Oct.	26	Ohio	L	21-34
Nov.	5	at Western Michigan	L	31-35
Nov.	16	Central Michigan	L	44-45
Nov.	23	at Kent State	L	38-41
Nov.	29	Miami (Ohio)	W	41-27

#Indianapolis

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Qian Magwood, WR, Columbus, OH
2. Latrell Fordham, ATH, Davison, MI
3. Brayden Evans, S, Mooresville, IN
4. Joshua Tarango, DT, Anaheim, CA*
5. Donny Marcus, RB, Brownsburg, IN
6. Markavun Brownlee, RB, Elkhart, IN
7. Tommy Lorincz, OT, Avon, OH
8. Dalton Elrod, LB, Hartland, WI
9. Nate Pedraza, DE, Rolling Meadows, IL
10. Nathan Reichert, DE, Lewistown, OH

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	34.8 ppg	1	18
Rushing	219.4 ypg	4	22
Passing	243.6 ypg	3	56
Total	463.0 ypg	1	16
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	31.4 ppg	8	94
Rushing	179.6 ypg	6	86
Passing	245.1 ypg	11	95
Total	424.7 ypg	8	91
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
+8	+0.67	1	15

STAT CORNER

27.07

Ball State intercepted 15 passes last season — one pass for every 27.07 pass plays called (including sacks), best in the MAC and No. 7 in the country.

OFFENSE The Cardinals expect to have the firepower to pile up the points this season since they return six starters from last year's unit that led the Mid-American Conference in both scoring (34.8 points per game) and total offense (463.0 yards per game). Senior quarterback Drew Plitt has been at the controls of the up-tempo pro-style attack for 18 starts and has 4,356 career passing yards.

His favorite target is senior Justin Hall, an All-MAC receiver who has 208 career catches and has led the team in that category in each of the last three seasons.

Senior running back Caleb Huntley finished third in the MAC with 1,275 rushing yards in 2019, with seven 100-yard games in conference play. There is ample experience up front with senior all-conference guard Curtis Blackwell logging 30 career starts and senior left tackle Kaleb Slaven making 22. Sophomore Luke Martin is at the other guard, where he made eight starts in an injury-shortened 2019.

DEFENSE There are seven starters back on an aggressive unit that led the Mid-American Conference last season with 24 forced turnovers. A couple of All-MAC cornerbacks and three returning starters at linebacker will form the core of the Cardinals' 2020 defense.

Ball State should be stingy against the pass with first-team All-MAC senior corner Antonio Phillips and junior second-team All-MAC pick Amechi Uzodinma II bracketing the field. Phillips had four picks last season, while Uzodinma tied for the league lead with five and also had 12 pass breakups. They are joined on the back end by senior safety Bryce Cosby, who has made 35 career starts and is the team's active leader in tackles with 220.

All-conference picks Christian Albright and Jaylin Thomas along with junior Jordan Williams give the Cardinals plenty of experience and punch at linebacker. Albright led the team in tackles for a loss last season with 10.5, while Thomas was second on the team with 97 tackles. Williams made 11 starts and led the team with 4.5 sacks.

Up front, the Cardinals are expecting senior returning starter James Jennette III to lead a unit not blessed with much experience or depth.

SPECIALISTS Senior Nathan Snyder booted 11 punts of 50 yards or more last season in averaging 41.7 yards per punt. Redshirt freshman Jack Knight will battle junior Jake Chanove for the placekicking job, while senior Justin Hall is the only kick returner on the roster with any experience.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Cardinals were 5–7 a year ago despite leading the conference in scoring and turnover margin. Ball State has yet to post a winning record in four years under head coach, Cardinal alum and 1993 MAC Offensive Player of the Year Mike Neu. The former BSU quarterback has 13 starters back, including six all-MAC players, and he needs to develop a consistent level of performance from his team in what could be his make-or-break season. Plitt, Huntley and Hall give Neu's offense the essential pieces to once again score points in bunches, while the defense looks very strong at linebacker and in the secondary. Road games against Michigan and Indiana will give the Cardinals a couple of severe tests before the season is a month old.

Justin Hall

"Always a dynamic offense that makes you do a lot against them. Always great at developing young QBs. Their problem is that they're just not clicking on defense."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR	85	Yo'Heinz Tyler (Jr.)	19	Jalen McGaughy (Fr.)
WR	11	Justin Hall (Sr.)	16	Hassan Littles (Sr.)
WR	**1**	**Antwan Davis (Sr.)**	84	Trevor Hohlt (Jr.)
LT	**77**	**Kaleb Slaven (Sr.)**	79	Joseph Boggs (So.)
LG	**76**	**Luke Martin (So.)**	73	Patrick Lyons (Fr.)
C	72	Anthony Todd (Sr.)	55	Chris Beech (Sr.)
RG	**62**	**Curtis Blackwell (Sr.)**	53	Jaylen Turner (So.)
RT	70	Dylan Koch (Sr.)	60	Seth Schmidt (Fr.)
TE	80	Chris Crothers (Jr.)	43	Wes Obermeier (So.)
QB	**9**	**Drew Plitt (Sr.)**	18	John Paddock (So.)
RB	**2**	**Caleb Huntley (Sr.)**	24	Will Jones (Jr.)

DEFENSE (7) Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**35**	**James Jennette III (Sr.)**	92	Kendal Kendrick (Jr.)
NT	67	Justen Ramsey (So.)	95	Emeka Jillani (So.)
DE	93	Kyron Mims (Fr.)	94	Jack Sape (So.)
OLB	**13**	**Jordan Williams (Jr.)**	27	Jimmy Daw (Jr.)
MLB	7	Brandon Martin (Sr.)	32	Clayton Coll (So.)
OLB	**6**	**Jaylin Thomas (Sr.)**	3	Hank Grenda (Jr.)
OLB	**9**	**Christian Albright (Sr.)**	44	Brock Burns (Jr.)
CB	**21**	**Antonio Phillips (Sr.)**	17	Nic Jones (So.)
CB	**25**	**Amechi Uzodinma II (Jr.)**	15	Tyler Potts (So.)
SS	**5**	**Bryce Cosby (Sr.)**	18	Demetrius Murray (Jr.)
FS	23	Brett Anderson II (Sr.)	12	Ben Stewart (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	34	Jack Knight (Fr.)	**KR**	11	Justin Hall (Sr.)
P	38	Nathan Snyder (Sr.)	**PR**	25	Amechi Uzodinma II (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Drew Plitt, 370-238-2,918-7, 24 TDs
Rushing: Caleb Huntley, 248 att., 1,275 yds., 12 TDs
Receiving: Justin Hall, 61 rec., 684 yds., 6 TD
Tackles: Jaylin Thomas, 97
Sacks: Jordan Williams, 4.5
Interceptions: Amechi Uzodinma II, 5

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Mike Neu
Record at School: 15-33 (4 years)
Career Record: 15-33 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Kevin Lynch
Defensive Coordinator: Tyler Stockton
Muncie, IN • Scheumann Stadium (22,500)

Ball State Athletics

CENTRAL MICHIGAN Chippewas

National Forecast: **91** · MAC West Prediction: **2** · Projected Record: **7-5, 5-3 MAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	San Jose State
Sept.	12	at Nebraska
Sept.	19	at Northwestern
Sept.	26	Bryant
Oct.	3	at Eastern Michigan
Oct.	10	at Northern Illinois
Oct.	17	Western Michigan#
Oct.	24	Miami (Ohio)
Nov.	4	Ohio
Nov.	11	at Toledo
Nov.	18	Ball State
Nov.	24	at Kent State

Ford Field

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-6, 6-2 MAC

Aug.	30	Albany	W	38-21
Sept.	7	at Wisconsin	L	0-61
Sept.	14	Akron	W	45-24
Sept.	21	at Miami	L	12-17
Sept.	28	at Western Michigan	L	15-31
Oct.	5	Eastern Michigan	W	42-16
Oct.	12	New Mexico State	W	42-28
Oct.	19	at Bowling Green	W	38-20
Oct.	26	at Buffalo	L	20-43
Nov.	2	Northern Illinois	W	48-10
Nov.	16	at Ball State	W	45-44
Nov.	29	Toledo	W	49-7
Dec.	7	vs. Miami (Ohio) #	L	21-26
Dec.	21	vs. San Diego State %	L	11-48

#Detroit %New Mexico Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Daemon Hill, CB, Palmetto, FL
2. Nahree Biggins, WR, Hillside, NJ
3. Myles Bailey, RB, North Brunswick, NJ
4. Keegan Smith, OG, Jackson, MI
5. Davis Heinzen, TE, Manitowoc, WI
6. Tyler Pape, QB, Parma, MI
7. Donte Kent, ATH, Harrisburg, PA
8. Braden Doyle, OG, Green Bay, WI
9. Jason Williams, DT, Ocoee, FL
10. Zahir Swann, WR, Irvington, NJ

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	30.4 ppg	5	54
Rushing	181.4 ypg	7	42
Passing	252.2 ypg	2	48
Total	433.6 ypg	5	37
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	28.3 ppg	6	72
Rushing	122.8 ypg	2	24
Passing	240.2 ypg	10	89
Total	363.0 ypg	2	41
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
-11	-0.79	11	120

STAT CORNER

17.49%

Central Michigan recorded a tackle for a loss on 17.49 percent of its opponents' rushing plays in 2019 — the best rate in the country.

OFFENSE There are big-time question marks at quarterback after senior-to-be David Moore had his appeal denied by the NCAA in March following a suspension for a positive banned substance test last October. He will miss the first five games of the season. Central Michigan had more depth at the QB spot last season following Moore's suspension, but his absence will likely hurt, considering the candidates next in line have almost no experience. Redshirt freshman Daniel Richardson threw three passes last season, and his talent might give him the edge, but it comes with considerable risk. George Pearson appeared in one game in 2018 and might be the steadier option, but he lacks Richardson's upside. Expect Moore to regain the job when he is cleared to return.

Kobe Lewis (182 carries, 1,074 yards, 12 TDs) served CMU well in what was technically a backup role last season and is primed for another big season, while the upside of Lew Nichols should get him on the field immediately.

Three starting wide receivers return, including the dynamic Kalil Pimpleton (82 receptions, 894 yards, six TDs), a first-team All-MAC performer as a sophomore. Second-team All-MAC tight end Tony Poljan, who made the successful transition from QB in 2019, provides leadership and a large target.

DEFENSE Central Michigan was second in the MAC in total defense (363.0 ypg) in 2019 and should be one of the better defenses in the conference again. Highlighting that side of the ball is returning first-team All-MAC linebacker Troy Brown, who had 91 tackles, including 16.5 for a loss. He could match or surpass those statistics this fall. While the other two linebacker jobs are not locked down, there is no shortage of candidates for the roles.

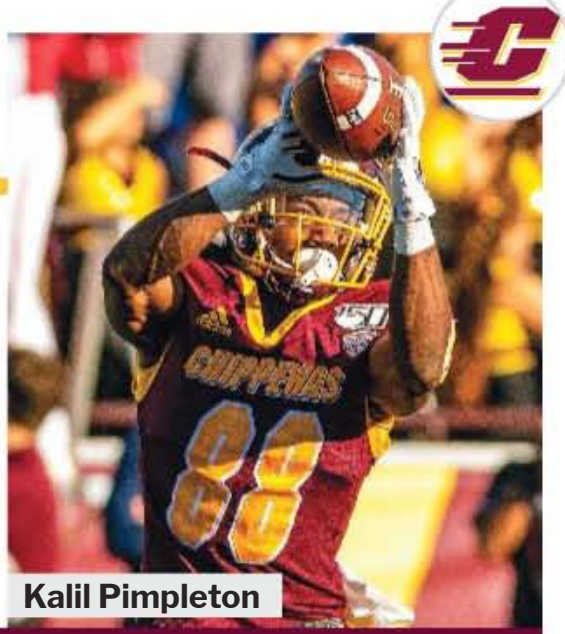
Deron Irving-Bey was expected to be a major contributor from the edge in 2019 after transferring from Michigan, but he was dismissed due to academics after the fall semester. Evidently, Irving-Bey has sorted that side out as he is back on the roster and could provide a big-time pass-rushing presence with his 6'5", 295-pound frame. After breaking out his freshman season, LaQuan Johnson (33 tackles, 13 TFL, six sacks) will also be a major presence at defensive end as CMU appears to be stout up front.

In the secondary, the Chippewas return four starters with safeties Devonni Reed and Willie Reid providing big-play ability from the back end.

SPECIALISTS Pimpleton has the ability to return a punt for a score anytime he touches the ball. Kicker is iffy right now, as redshirt freshman Aidan Jennings only has kickoff experience in one game, and punter Brady Buell (41.9 per punt) may not be capable of dual responsibilities.

FINAL ANALYSIS Head coach Jim McElwain's debut season could not have gone much better. McElwain oversaw a team that went from 1–11 to 8–6 and a MAC West championship.

While a repeat performance might be difficult, CMU could gain some momentum with a manageable non-conference schedule. A talented defensive core could be enough to keep it in just about every game, and Moore is only slated to miss one MAC game, Oct. 3 at Eastern Michigan. His return might be enough to make the Chippewas a noisemaker once again.



Kalil Pimpleton

"This team was always better, or more talented, than what they were putting on the field. They could become the dominant program in the MAC very soon."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)				
WR	**11**	**JaCorey Sullivan (Sr.)**	84	Bailey Edwards (Jr.)
WR	**88**	**Kalil Pimpleton (Jr.)**	80	Drayton Law (Jr.)
WR	**19**	**Tyrone Scott (So.)**	87	Keonta Nixon (So.)
LT	79	Nick Follmer (Jr.)	74	Jacob Dean (Fr.)
LG	**56**	**Derek Smith (Sr.)**	65	D. Powell-Woods (So.)
C	50	Jamezz Kimbrough (Jr.)	75	Jeff Strome (Jr.)
RG	69	Danny Motowski (So.)	66	Tyden Ferris (So.)
RT	**67**	**Luke Goedeke (Jr.)**	68	Erik Ditzhazy (Jr.)
TE	**85**	**Tony Poljan (Sr.)**	86	Bernhard Raimann (Jr.)
QB	10	Daniel Richardson (Fr.)	8	George Pearson (So.)
RB	4	Kobe Lewis (Jr.)	22	Lew Nichols (Fr.)

DEFENSE (8)		Returning Starters in Bold		
DE	**11**	**LaQuan Johnson (So.)**	34	Amir Siddiq (Jr.)
DT	**92**	**Jacques Bristol (So.)**	70	Mohamed Diallo (Sr.)
DT	**71**	**Robi Stuart (Sr.)**	59	Tico Brown (So.)
DE	91	Deron Irving-Bey (Jr.)	93	Keegan Cossou (Sr.)
OLB	**8**	**Troy Brown (Jr.)**	41	Cory Gildersleeve Jr. (Fr.)
MLB	31	Chuck Jones (Jr.)	33	Kumehnnu Gwilly (Sr.)
OLB	45	Troy Hairston (Sr.)	17	George Douglas (Jr.)
CB	**18**	**K. McKinnie-Harper (So.)**	9	Brandon Brown (Jr.)
CB	**10**	**Montrae Braswell (So.)**	24	Darius Bracy (Jr.)
S	**5**	**Devonni Reed (Jr.)**	20	Gage Kreski (Sr.)
S	**19**	**Willie Reid (So.)**	3	Alonzo McCoy (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	95	Aidan Jennings (Fr.)	**KR**	10	Montrae Braswell (So.)
P	63	Brady Buell (Jr.)	**PR**	88	Kalil Pimpleton (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: David Moore, 164-94-1,143-4, 5 TDs
Rushing: Kobe Lewis, 182 att., 1,074 yds., 12 TDs
Receiving: Kalil Pimpleton, 82 rec., 894 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Troy Brown, 91
Sacks: LaQuan Johnson, 6.0
Interceptions: Troy Brown, Alonzo McCoy, 3

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Jim McElwain
Record at School: 8-6 (1 year)
Career Record: 52-34 (6+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Charlie Frye
Defensive Coordinator: Robb Akey
Mount Pleasant, MI • Kelly/Shorts Stadium (30,255)

Central Michigan Athletics

EASTERN MICHIGAN Eagles

National Forecast: **117** · MAC West Prediction: **6** · Projected Record: **4-8, 3-5 MAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at Kentucky
Sept.	12	Coastal Carolina
Sept.	19	Northern Illinois
Sept.	26	at Missouri
Oct.	3	Central Michigan
Oct.	10	at Ohio
Oct.	17	at Army
Oct.	24	Toledo
Oct.	31	at Western Michigan
Nov.	10	at Ball State
Nov.	21	Bowling Green
Nov.	27	at Miami (Ohio)

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 6-7, 3-5 MAC

Aug.	31	at Coastal Carolina	W	30-23
Sept.	7	at Kentucky	L	17-38
Sept.	14	at Illinois	W	34-31
Sept.	21	Central Conn. St.	W	34-29
Oct.	5	at Central Michigan	L	16-42
Oct.	12	Ball State	L	23-29
Oct.	19	Western Michigan	W	34-27
Oct.	26	at Toledo (ot)	L	34-37
Nov.	2	Buffalo	L	14-43
Nov.	12	at Akron	W	42-14
Nov.	19	at Northern Illinois	W	45-17
Nov.	29	Kent State	L	26-34
Dec.	26	vs. Pittsburgh #	L	30-34

#Quick Lane Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. C.J. Parks, WR, Santa Ana, CA*
2. DJ Smith, RB, Frisco, TX
3. Rico Small, WR, Willoughby, OH
4. Jason Eaton, OT, Clarksville, TN
5. David Carter Jr., CB, River Rouge, MI
6. Mickey Rewolinski, OT, Union Grove, WI
7. Baron May, QB, New Philadelphia, OH
8. Myles McNeal, CB, Grand Blanc, MI
9. Jacob Barrett, WR, Checotah, OK
10. Brycen Huddleston, LB, Fort Thomas, KY

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	29.2 ppg	7	65
Rushing	122.3 ypg	11	116
Passing	283.2 ypg	1	28
Total	405.5 ypg	7	67
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	30.6 ppg	7	87
Rushing	194.2 ypg	8	102
Passing	236.2 ypg	7	81
Total	430.5 ypg	9	94
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
+4	+0.31	5	40

STAT CORNER

3.00

Eastern Michigan struggled to control the line of scrimmage, surrendering 3.00 line yards per carry in standard down situations last season.

OFFENSE The plus side to Eastern Michigan breaking in a new starting quarterback this fall is the return of its top two receivers from a year ago in Dylan Drummond and Quian Williams, who should help ease the transition. The duo combined for 107 receptions, 1,154 yards and nine TDs a season ago. Talented junior college transfer C.J. Parks also figures in, while Jairus Grissom is making the move from quarterback to wideout, where his athleticism plus versatility should allow the playbook to be expanded.

With most of spring practice canceled, the quarterback battle was largely scrapped, but Preston Hutchinson will enter the season as the clear frontrunner. He saw action in eight games last season as the backup to Mike Glass III and completed 43-of-57 passes for 462 yards and three TDs. The Eagles had the top passing offense in the Mid-American Conference last season at 283.2 yards per game, so there are certainly some big shoes for Hutchinson to fill.

Offensive line is in good shape with three starters returning, led by a steady hand at center in Mike Van Hoeven. The running back position is basically an open competition, perhaps with freshman Darius Boone Jr. ready to emerge. Willie Parker is the leading returning rusher, but he averaged only 3.7 yards per pop in a backup role in 2019.

DEFENSE The Eagles had a subpar defense last season, finishing seventh in the MAC in points allowed per game (30.6) and ninth in yards allowed (430.5). Terry Myrick is the top returning tackler (89 tackles, two sacks), and a bunch of experience returns in the secondary, led by cornerback Freddie McGee III (32 tackles, four breakups). Jalen Phelps also returns to the fold at cornerback after missing much of last year with an injury.

A pair of starters return on the interior of the defensive line in Woo Scott and the emerging Mikey Haney, but there are question marks on the edge after the Eagles generated only 22 sacks last season. Turan Rush brings some veteran leadership to the defensive end spot and did have a team-best five sacks.

Whether it is getting more pressure on the quarterback or forcing more turnovers, Eastern Michigan needs to show significant improvement on defense in order to maximize its potential.

SPECIALISTS Punter Jake Julien (43.8 ypp) and kicker Chad Ryland (14-of-19 field goals, 5-of-6 longer than 40 yards) give EMU a solid advantage in those areas. Drummond handled the majority of returns last season, and it could remain that way.

FINAL ANALYSIS Although it is true that there are still heights Eastern Michigan has not come close to scaling, this has still been a positive stretch overall under head coach Chris Creighton. After inheriting a mess of a program in 2014 and going a combined 3–21 his first two seasons, he has gone 25–26 with three bowl games in the last four years. Still, the Eagles are looking for their first conference championship since 1987, which is also the only year EMU has ever won a bowl game.

With Central Michigan coming off a MAC West title and Western Michigan looking to be loading up for a strong season, Creighton and his scrappy Eagles might still be looking up at their two biggest rivals in the standings when it all shakes out in 2020.

Dylan Drummond

"This has been a tremendous turnaround. They've done it the right way, maybe the only way you can. They want to fight you. They do need to find a QB quickly."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (5)				
WR	**80**	**Dylan Drummond (Jr.)**	17	Michael Thompson (Sr.)
WR	81	Quian Williams (Jr.)	6	Jairus Grissom (Jr.)
WR		C.J. Parks (Jr.)	16	Hassan Beydoun (Jr.)
LT	71	Marcellus Johnson (So.)	79	Jimi McAdams IV (Fr.)
LG	**62**	**Sidy Sow (Jr.)**	74	Dimitri Douglas (So.)
C	**60**	**Mike Van Hoeven (Sr.)**	76	Richard Bates Jr. (Jr.)
RG	69	Jake Donnellon (Sr.)	57	Michael Smith Jr. (Sr.)
RT	**73**	**Brian Dooley (So.)**	68	Alex Howie (So.)
TE	**86**	**Bryson Cannon (Sr.)**	82	Gunnar Oakes (Jr.)
QB	10	Preston Hutchinson (Jr.)	3	Aaron Jackson (So.)
RB	27	Darius Boone Jr. (Fr.)	26	Willie Parker (Sr.)

DEFENSE (5)				Returning Starters in Bold
DE	**99**	**Turan Rush (Sr.)**	91	Clay Holford (Sr.)
NT	**98**	**Woo Scott (Sr.)**	77	Ty Eddington (Sr.)
DT	**93**	**Mikey Haney (So.)**	51	Aaron Hamilton (Fr.)
DE	58	Carter Stagner (So.)	55	Jose Ramirez (So.)
LB	**32**	**Terry Myrick (Sr.)**	41	Tariq Speights (Jr.)
LB	20	Desean Boyd (Jr.)	53	Matthew Buschman (So.)
CB	7	Freddie McGee III (Sr.)	12	Jeff Hubbard (Sr.)
CB	1	Jalen Phelps (Sr.)	19	Noski LaFleur (Sr.)
S	**23**	**Blake Bogan (Jr.)**	5	Korey Hernandez (Jr.)
S	13	Russell Vaden IV (Jr.)	36	EJ Williams (So.)
S	15	Jerodd Vines (So.)	21	Robert Daniel Jr. (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	38	Chad Ryland (Jr.)	**KR**	80	Dylan Drummond (Jr.)
P	31	Jake Julien (Sr.)	**PR**	80	Dylan Drummond (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Preston Hutchinson, 57-43-462-1, 3 TDs
Rushing: Willie Parker, 38 att., 142 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Dylan Drummond, 55 rec., 493 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Terry Myrick, 89
Sacks: Turan Rush, 5.0
Interceptions: 5 tied with 1

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Chris Creighton
Record at School: 28-47 (6 years)
Career Record: 164-93 (23 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Chris Creighton
Defensive Coordinator: Neal Neathery
Ypsilanti, MI • Rynearson Stadium (30,200)

Walt Middleton Photography

NORTHERN ILLINOIS Huskies

National Forecast: **116** · MAC West Prediction: **5** · Projected Record: **4-8, 3-5 MAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Rhode Island
Sept.	12	at Maryland
Sept.	19	at Eastern Michigan
Sept.	26	at Iowa
Oct.	3	Kent State
Oct.	10	Central Michigan
Oct.	17	at Ball State
Oct.	24	vs. BYU #
Nov.	3	Buffalo
Nov.	10	at Western Michigan
Nov.	17	Toledo
Nov.	27	at Bowling Green

#Bridgeview, IL

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 5-7, 4-4 MAC

Aug.	31	Illinois State	W	24-10
Sept.	7	at Utah	L	17-35
Sept.	15	at Nebraska	L	8-44
Sept.	28	at Vanderbilt	L	18-24
Oct.	5	Ball State	L	20-27
Oct.	12	at Ohio	W	39-36
Oct.	19	at Miami (Ohio)	L	24-27
Oct.	26	Akron	W	49-0
Nov.	2	at Central Michigan	L	10-48
Nov.	13	at Toledo	W	31-28
Nov.	19	Eastern Michigan	L	17-45
Nov.	26	Western Michigan	W	17-14

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Dustin Fletcher, QB, Flint, MI
2. Jeyvon Ducker, RB, Bellevue, NE
3. Woodly Appolon, S, Winnipeg, MB*
4. Eddie Jackson, S, Miami, FL
5. Cody Kopp, LB, Jacksonville, FL
6. Eric Rogers, S, Burlington, NJ
7. Ivan Davis, DE, Canton, MI
8. Daveren Rayner, S, Indianapolis, IN
9. Jeremiah Howard, WR, Merrillville, IN
10. Erin Collins, RB, Seffner, FL*

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	22.8 ppg	10	103
Rushing	141.1 ypg	9	92
Passing	217.6 ypg	7	79
Total	358.7 ypg	9	104
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	28.2 ppg	5	71
Rushing	177.9 ypg	5	83
Passing	208.6 ypg	3	39
Total	386.5 ypg	4	63
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
-6	-0.50	8	103

STAT CORNER

1.16%

NIU had interceptions on 1.16 percent of opponents' pass plays (including sacks), the second-lowest rate in the MAC and fifth lowest in the country.

OFFENSE Sixth-year senior quarterback Ross Bowers had some ups and downs in his first season in DeKalb. The Cal transfer suffered two concussions, but when healthy, he showed enough to be a difference-maker, throwing for 2,130 yards in nine games.

Northern Illinois inexplicably struggled to run the ball in 2019. The Huskies ranked ninth in the conference in rushing, averaging 141.1 yards per game — the program's lowest since averaging 135.5 yards in 2007 when they finished 2-10.

NIU coach Thomas Hammock, a former running backs coach for the Baltimore Ravens, is optimistic about his young group of runners. Jordan Nettles, who rushed for 274 yards last season, is the most experienced among a group that includes promising freshmen Rondarius Gregory and Jevyon Ducker and juco product Erin Collins.

The strength and experience of the offense lies up front, where four starters return. But the Huskies have a gaping hole at right tackle after the graduation of first-team All-MAC selection Jordan Steckler. Center Christopher Perez and left guard Benn Olson are the most experienced on the O-line.

The receiving group is rich in talent with Tyrice Richie, Cole Tucker and Michael Love. Tight ends Daniel Crawford and Mitchell Brinkman form one of the best tandems in the conference.

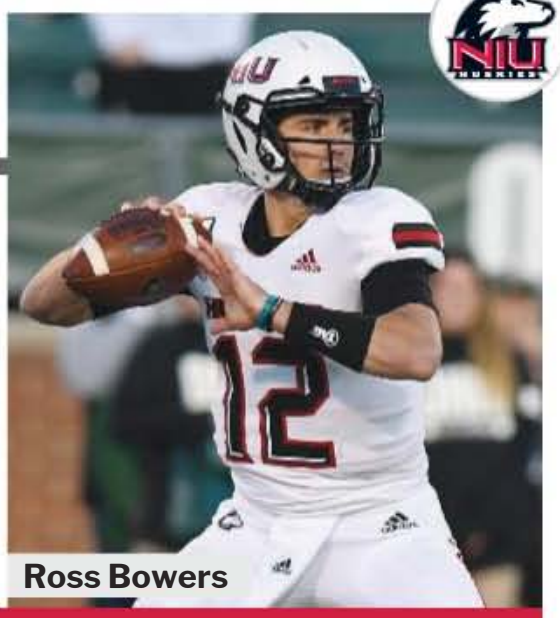
DEFENSE Injuries riddled the defense, which led to numerous players being forced to step into bigger roles earlier than expected.

Leading the charge defensively will be the senior trio of defensive end Matt Lorbeck and tackles Jack Heflin and Weston Kramer. A second-team All-MAC selection in 2019, the 6'4", 319-pound Heflin is a run-stopper and can get after the quarterback.

Sixth-year senior middle linebacker Kyle Pugh and fifth-year senior outside backer Lance Deveaux Jr. are both healthy after combining to play just two games last season. The big question mark on the defense lies in the secondary, which is a work in progress, with not a single career start among the post-spring two-deep at both cornerback and safety. The lack of a full spring of practices might lead to an adjustment period. Junior cornerback Dillon Thomas leads the secondary with 25 career games played.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker John Richardson and punter Matt Ference are one of the best combinations in the MAC. Richardson connected on 14-of-18 field-goal attempts last season. Ference is coming off a career-best 43 yards per punt average, with 16 punts of 50 yards or more. Love is slated to be the primary punt returner.

FINAL ANALYSIS After the best seven-year run in program history, the Huskies have posted 5–7 records in two of the last four seasons. Whether Hammock's losing record in his rookie season was an aberration or the start of a downward spiral will come into clearer focus in 2020. The Huskies lack the elite talent of past successful teams and have big question marks in key areas. Will Bowers be able to build off last season? Does the offense have a reliable playmaker? Can Hammock handle the transition from long-time assistant to head coach of a mid-major program with high expectations? Those questions are looming over a program that has gone five straight seasons without more than eight wins.



Ross Bowers

"They're a build in progress and looked very different as you watched them week to week. I think they're still in the idea phase, trying stuff out."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)				
WR	**18**	**Cole Tucker (Jr.)**	17	Dennis Robinson (Jr.)
WR	3	Tyrice Richie (Sr.)	7	Fabian McCray (Fr.)
WR	2	Michael Love (So.)		Jeremiah Howard (Fr.)
LT	**70**	**Marques Cox (So.)**	75	Leif Engstrand (Fr.)
LG	**61**	**Benn Olson (Sr.)**		John Champe (Fr.)
C	**62**	**Christopher Perez Jr. (Sr.)**	68	Owen Rozumalski (So.)
RG	76	Logan Zschernitz (Fr.)	79	J.J. Lippe (Fr.)
RT	**58**	**Brayden Patton (Sr.)**	69	Nolan Potter (So.)
TE	**88**	**Daniel Crawford (Sr.)**	**89**	**Mitchell Brinkman (Sr.)**
QB	**12**	**Ross Bowers (Sr.)**	10	Andrew Haidet (Sr.)
RB	22	Rondarius Gregory (Fr.)	8	Jevyon Ducker (Fr.)
DEFENSE (6)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	**9**	**Matt Lorbeck (Sr.)**	90	Caleb Wright (So.)
DT	**55**	**Weston Kramer (Sr.)**	94	James Ester (Fr.)
DT	**98**	**Jack Heflin (Sr.)**	97	Demond Taylor (Fr.)
DE	5	Michael Kennedy (Jr.)	58	Cam Mattox (So.)
OLB	**45**	**Jordan Cole (Jr.)**	42	Greg DeLuca (Sr.)
MLB	**11**	**Kyle Pugh (Sr.)**	**38**	**Nick Rattin (So.)**
OLB	2	Lance Deveaux Jr. (Sr.)	57	Rayshawn Gay (Jr.)
CB	20	Zhamaine March (Jr.)	27	Mark Aitken (Fr.)
CB	15	Dillon Thomas (Jr.)	26	Antwain Walker (So.)
S	33	Joshua Earl (So.)	6	CJ Brown (Fr.)
S	29	Woodly Appolon (Jr.)	21	Tyrik Henderson (Fr.)
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	39	John Richardson (So.)	**KR**	7 Fabian McCray (Fr.)
P	36	Matt Ference (Sr.)	**PR**	2 Michael Love (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Ross Bowers, 287-166-2,130-8, 7 TDs
Rushing: Jordan Nettles, 67 att., 274 yds., 0 TDs
Receiving: Cole Tucker, 38 rec., 531 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Vinny Labus, 59
Sacks: Jack Heflin, 3.0
Interceptions: Nick Rattin, 1

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Thomas Hammock
Record at School: 5-7 (1 year)
Career Record: 5-7 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Eric Eidsness
Defensive Coordinators: Derrick Jackson, Robert Wimberly
DeKalb, IL • Huskie Stadium (23,595)

Northern Illinois Athletics

TOLEDO Rockets

National Forecast: **90** · MAC West Prediction: **1** · Projected Record: **7-6, 6-2 MAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at Tulsa
Sept.	12	San Diego State
Sept.	19	at Michigan State
Sept.	26	Central Connecticut
Oct.	3	Ohio
Oct.	10	at Western Michigan
Oct.	17	Bowling Green
Oct.	24	at Eastern Michigan
Oct.	31	at Akron
Nov.	11	Central Michigan
Nov.	17	at Northern Illinois
Nov.	24	Ball State

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 6-6, 3-5 MAC

Aug.	31	at Kentucky	L	24-38
Sept.	14	Murray State	W	45-0
Sept.	21	at Colorado State	W	41-35
Sept.	28	BYU	W	28-21
Oct.	5	Western Michigan	W	31-24
Oct.	12	at Bowling Green	L	7-20
Oct.	19	at Ball State	L	14-52
Oct.	26	Eastern Michigan (ot)	W	37-34
Nov.	5	Kent State	W	35-33
Nov.	13	Northern Illinois	L	28-31
Nov.	20	at Buffalo	L	30-49
Nov.	29	at Central Michigan	L	7-49

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Lamy Constant, RB, Brooklyn, NY
2. DeMeer Blankumsee, WR, Cincinnati, OH
3. Clay Caudill, TE, Mansfield, OH
4. Gavin Hall, QB, Kennesaw, GA
5. Jaden Rayford, S, Pemberville, OH
6. Latrell Thompkins, DE, Detroit, MI
7. Jackson Stoefen, OT, Eldridge, IA
8. Martez Poynter, DT, Saint Louis, MO
9. Geri Theodore, DE, Clearwater, FL
10. Cauren Lynch, RB, Dallas, TX

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	27.3 ppg	8	75
Rushing	224.5 ypg	2	18
Passing	209.6 ypg	8	85
Total	434.1 ypg	4	36
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	32.2 ppg	10	102
Rushing	218.4 ypg	10	121
Passing	257.3 ypg	12	106
Total	475.7 ypg	12	123
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
-8	-0.67	10	113

STAT CORNER

2.5%

The Rockets recorded a sack just 2.5 percent of the time on passing downs (second-and-8-plus and third- or fourth-and-5-plus), which was the lowest rate in the country.

OFFENSE Without the benefit of spring ball to sort out the competition, the Rockets will approach the 2020 season with an active battle for the starting quarterback job. Senior Eli Peters has the inside track after going 6–4 in his 10 starts over the past two seasons when he threw for 2,665 yards and 24 touchdowns. Sophomore backup Carter Bradley has been impressive in his more limited work.

With All-MAC junior Bryant Koback (1,187 yards, 12 touchdowns in 2019) and senior Shakif Seymour (2,008 career yards with 22 touchdowns), there is proven punch at running back. Seniors Bryce Mitchell and Danzel McKinley-Lewis lead the receiver group, with Mitchell coming off an All-MAC season with 35 receptions for 679 yards and four scores. Three returning starters provide security and strength up front, led by 2018 All-MAC center Bryce Harris, who comes back after missing last season due to injury, and guard Nick Rosi, a freshman All-American in 2019.

DEFENSE Toledo will lean on seven returning starters, led by All-MAC end Jamal Hines, a junior who has 101 career tackles and 17.5 tackles for a loss, and a veteran-laden secondary. Hines is joined up front by returning starters Nate Givhan at the other end (39 tackles, 3.5 TFLs in 2019) and sophomore tackle Devan Rogers. Seven additional letter-winners give the line group ample depth.

Junior Saeed Holt (74 tackles, 11.0 TFLs) is the lone returning starter at linebacker, where Daniel Bolden and Dyontae Johnson are expected to line up after gaining significant experience as 2019 reserves.

There is a wealth of proven talent on the back end, where starting corners Samuel Womack and Chris McDonald return. Womack led the MAC with 15 pass breakups in 2019. Add Justin Clark, a 2018 starter back from an injury-plagued year, to the group. Senior safety Tycen Anderson returns after recording 84 tackles a year ago, and he will get help from sophomores Nate Bauer and Zachary Ford.

SPECIALISTS Senior punter Bailey Flint is in his fourth year as a starter after leading the MAC in 2019 with a 47.3-yard average before suffering a season-ending injury. Sophomores Thomas Cluckey and Evan Davis shared placekicking duties last season and could follow the same script. The top 2019 return men, speedsters Devin Maddox and McKinley-Lewis, are also back.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Rockets look to rebound from a 2019 season of underachievement. Fifth-year head coach Jason Candle's seat is warm, at a minimum, due to the built-in expectations at Toledo, where a string of nine straight winning seasons was broken with the 6–6 finish last year.

Candle brought in three new coordinators and speaks of a renewed energy throughout the program, but with spring practice cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rockets lost precious get-acquainted time. With 13 returning starters, including five all-conference talents, and ample depth across the roster, the Rockets have the firepower to return to their status as one of the MAC contenders. With a home date against San Diego State sandwiched in between road battles with Tulsa and Michigan State in the first three weeks of the season, Toledo's bounce-back plan will be tested early.

Bryant Koback

"They have dynamic edge rushers who are young and athletes at every skill position. Their receivers are a problem to scheme against."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)				
WR	**80**	**Bryce Mitchell (Sr.)**	83	Nick Kovacs (Jr.)
WR	8	Devin Maddox (So.)	7	Jerjuan Newton (So.)
WR	**4**	**D. McKinley-Lewis (Sr.)**	88	Darius Corbett (Jr.)
LT	**68**	**Mitchell Berg (Jr.)**	61	Kelvin Ateman (Jr.)
LG	**73**	**Nick Rosi (So.)**	60	Tyler Long (So.)
C	72	Bryce Harris (Sr.)	63	Parker Bisek (Fr.)
RG	**65**	**Luke Doerger (Sr.)**	60	Tyler Long (So.)
RT	64	Joshua Fenn (Sr.)	74	Lavel Dumont (So.)
TE	89	Drew Rosi (Sr.)	81	Jamal Turner (Jr.)
QB	12	Eli Peters (Sr.)	2	Carter Bradley (So.)
RB	**22**	**Bryant Koback (Jr.)**	21	Shakif Seymour (Sr.)
DEFENSE (7)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	**91**	**Jamal Hines (Jr.)**	99	Desjuan Johnson (Jr.)
DT	96	David Hood (Sr.)	52	Derrius Mullins (Jr.)
DT	**92**	**Devan Rogers (So.)**	53	Devonte' Dunn (Jr.)
DE	**48**	**Nate Givhan (Jr.)**	56	Terrance Taylor (Jr.)
OLB	45	Dyontae Johnson (Jr.)	35	AJ Crider (Jr.)
MLB	31	Daniel Bolden (Jr.)	30	Jonathon Jones (Sr.)
OLB	**20**	**Saeed Holt (Jr.)**	11	Jalynn Williams (So.)
CB	24	Justin Clark (Jr.)	**13**	**Chris McDonald (So.)**
CB	**19**	**Samuel Womack (Sr.)**	22	Jordan Hendy (Sr.)
SS	**1**	**Tycen Anderson (Sr.)**	12	DeAmonte King (Jr.)
FS	7	Zachary Ford (So.)	6	Nate Bauer (So.)
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	17	Thomas Cluckey (So.)	**KR**	8 Devin Maddox (So.)
P	49	Bailey Flint (Sr.)	**PR**	8 Devin Maddox (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Eli Peters, 105-62-828-3, 6 TDs
Rushing: Bryant Koback, 195 att., 1,187 yds., 12 TDs
Receiving: D. McKinley-Lewis, 36 rec., 615 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Tycen Anderson, 84
Sacks: Saeed Holt, 3.5
Interceptions: Samuel Womack, 2

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Jason Candle
Record at School: 34-19 (4+ years)
Career Record: 34-19 (4+ years)
Offensive Coordinators: Mike Hallett, Robert Weiner
Defensive Coordinators: Vince Kehres, Craig Kuligowski
Toledo, OH • Glass Bowl (26,038)

University of Toledo

WESTERN MICHIGAN Broncos

National Forecast: **102** · MAC West Prediction: **4** · Projected Record: **6-6, 5-3 MAC**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	Colgate
Sept.	11	at Cincinnati
Sept.	19	at Notre Dame
Sept.	26	Syracuse
Oct.	3	at Ball State
Oct.	10	Toledo
Oct.	17	vs. Central Michigan#
Oct.	24	at Kent State
Oct.	31	Eastern Michigan
Nov.	10	Northern Illinois
Nov.	21	at Akron
Nov.	27	Buffalo

Detroit

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 7-6, 5-3 MAC

Aug.	31	Monmouth	W	48-13
Sept.	7	at Michigan State	L	17-51
Sept.	14	Georgia State	W	57-10
Sept.	21	at Syracuse	L	33-52
Sept.	28	Central Michigan	W	31-15
Oct.	5	at Toledo	L	24-31
Oct.	12	Miami (Ohio)	W	38-16
Oct.	19	at Eastern Michigan	L	27-34
Oct.	26	Bowling Green	W	49-10
Nov.	5	Ball State	W	35-31
Nov.	12	at Ohio (ot)	W	37-34
Nov.	26	at Northern Illinois	L	14-17
Dec.	30	vs. WKU #	L	20-23

#First Responder Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Logan Wilson, DE, Kimberly, WI
2. Kaevion Mack, WR, Peoria, IL
3. Ronald Pledger, CB, Chicago, IL
4. Ryan Kilburg, S, Park Ridge, IL
5. Eston Miles, DT, Williamston, MI
6. Jack Salopek, QB, Irwin, PA
7. Giacomo Iraci, S, Oak Lawn, IL
8. Kyle Arnoldi, OG, Commerce Township, MI
9. James Phillips, TE, Youngstown, OH
10. Tyler Fletcher, ATH, Nashville, TN

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	33.1 ppg	3	30
Rushing	205.1 ypg	5	28
Passing	240.6 ypg	4	59
Total	445.7 ypg	2	25
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	25.9 ppg	2	50
Rushing	181.6 ypg	7	89
Passing	238.1 ypg	9	85
Total	419.7 ypg	7	87
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MAC**	**NATIONAL**
+8	+0.62	2	19

STAT CORNER

14.37

Western Michigan scored 35 rushing TDs on 503 carries. The 14.37 carries between rushing TDs was best in the MAC and No. 3 in the country.

OFFENSE Kaleb Eleby redshirted last season, but that does not mean the quarterback enters 2020 without collegiate game experience, as he was pressed into duty as a freshman in 2018. There were some bumps, but overall it was a positive experience — 92-of-147 passing, 1,092 yards, four TDs. After sitting behind Jon Wassink, Eleby should take a big leap forward with solid playmakers around him.

The offensive line is in good shape with four returning starters. Senior Wesley French inherits the starting center job after playing on the defensive side of the ball in 2018. Jaylon Moore and Mike Caliendo were both second-team All-MAC performers last season and should give the Broncos a fantastic left side of the line.

D'Wayne Eskridge returns after missing much of last season with injury after a breakout 2018 campaign in which he caught 38 passes for 776 yards and three TDs. His 4.33 speed will make him a constant threat from anywhere on the field. Skyy Moore (51 catches, 802 yards, three TDs) was the team's leading receiver as a freshman and is poised for another strong season.

The man with the biggest challenge is running back Sean Tyler (68 carries, 390 yards, five TDs), who strives to fill the shoes of the prodigious LeVante Bellamy (1,472 yards, 23 TDs).

DEFENSE The Broncos had a bit of bend-but-don't-break mentality in 2019 as they were second in the MAC in scoring defense (25.9 ppg) despite ranking seventh in rush defense (181.6) and ninth in pass defense (238.1).

Treshaun Hayward returns as the leader of the unit after turning in an All-MAC season in which he led the conference with 142 tackles to go with five sacks. He will be in charge of a linebacker corps that will have new starters on both sides of him.

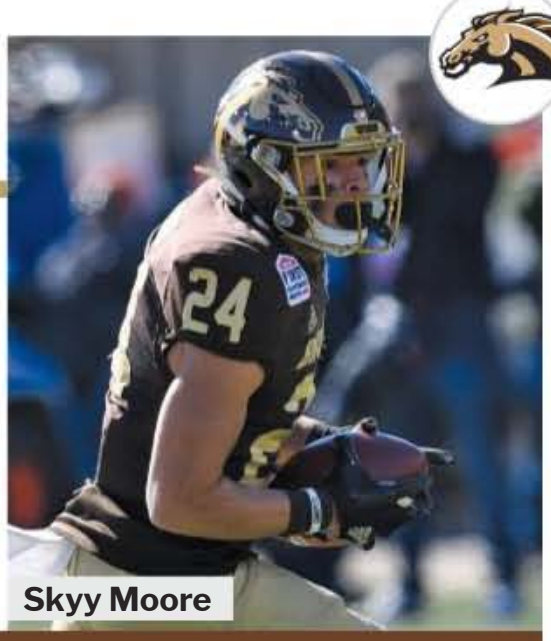
Western Michigan returns plenty of experience up front, including second-team all-conference performer Ali Fayad (53 tackles, 15 TFLs, 6.5 sacks), who is a prime candidate to once again lead his squad in creating havoc in the backfield. The interior will be paced by Ralph Holley, who posted 38 tackles, 10.5 tackles for a loss and 4.5 sacks.

Pitt transfer Therran Coleman is a candidate to make an immediate splash in the secondary. He will join a group that was paced in part last year by returners A.J. Thomas (67 tackles, six PBUs) and Patrick Lupro (64 tackles, three INTs, seven PBUs).

SPECIALISTS Nick Mihalic is back after averaging 42.3 yards per boot in 2019 with a long of 61. Gavin Peddie was the starting placekicker in 2018 and finished with 69 points, but he lost his job last year to Thiago Kapps and could be classified as a question mark. The return game is an open competition.

FINAL ANALYSIS Western Michigan ended 2019 in disappointment as it failed to secure the MAC West title due to a stunning loss to a depleted Northern Illinois squad in the regular-season finale. Then, a too-many-men-on-the-field penalty in the First Responder Bowl sealed a 23–20 loss to Western Kentucky.

But a solid returning core and a deep roster, plus the motivation of missed opportunities, should make the Broncos a factor in the MAC this fall. Fourth-year head coach Tim Lester has gone 6–6, 7–6 and 7–6 in his three seasons at the helm. This might be now-or-never time if he is ever going to make a bigger push forward.



Skyy Moore

"This is the most talented team in the league. There's been no drop-off in scouting and developing since P.J. (Fleck) left. They look the same to us."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR	6	Corey Crooms (So.)	9	Cam Cooper (Jr.)
WR	1	D'Wayne Eskridge (Sr.)	**2**	**DaShon Bussell (So.)**
WR	**24**	**Skyy Moore (So.)**	12	Damari Roberson (Fr.)
LT	**76**	**Jaylon Moore (Sr.)**	72	Dylan Deatherage (Jr.)
LG	**61**	**Mike Caliendo (Sr.)**	75	Addison West (Fr.)
C	66	Wesley French (Sr.)	77	Jacob Gideon (Fr.)
RG	**51**	**Jordan Asbury (Sr.)**	73	Mohamed Elazazy (Jr.)
RT	60	Mark Brooks (Sr.)	**70**	**Spencer Kanz (Sr.)**
TE	38	Tanner Mathias (Jr.)	89	Brett Borske (Sr.)
QB	5	Kaleb Eleby (So.)	10	Griffin Alstott (Jr.)
RB	28	Sean Tyler (So.)	7	Jaxson Kincaide (Sr.)

DEFENSE (6) Returning Starters in Bold

DE	5	Andre Carter (So.)	94	Marshawn Kneeland (Fr.)
NT	**8**	**Ralph Holley (Sr.)**	55	Braden Fiske (So.)
DT	**93**	**Will McCabe (So.)**	90	Ken Aguirre (Sr.)
DE	**1**	**Ali Fayad (Sr.)**	98	Kailien Guillory (Sr.)
OLB	3	Zaire Barnes (Jr.)	9	Boone Bonnema (Fr.)
MLB	**23**	**Treshaun Hayward (Sr.)**	27	Ryan Selig (So.)
OLB	31	Ali'Vonta Wallace (Fr.)	42	Roy McCree (Jr.)
CB	**4**	**Patrick Lupro (Jr.)**	14	Calin Crawford (Sr.)
CB	7	Therran Coleman (Sr.)	11	Keni-H Lovely (So.)
SS	13	Harrison Taylor (Jr.)	35	Jake Moertl (Jr.)
FS	**6**	**A.J. Thomas (Sr.)**	18	Ginial Isma (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	47	Gavin Peddie (So.)	**KR**	7	Jaxson Kincaide (Sr.)
P	39	Nick Mihalic (Jr.)	**PR**	24	Skyy Moore (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Griffin Alstott, 6-5-31-0, 1 TD
Rushing: Sean Tyler, 68 att., 390 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Skyy Moore, 51 rec., 802 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Treshaun Hayward, 142
Sacks: Ali Fayad, 6.5
Interceptions: Patrick Lupro, 3

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Tim Lester
Record at School: 20-18 (3 years)
Career Record: 60-41 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jake Moreland
Defensive Coordinator: Lou Esposito
Kalamazoo, MI • Waldo Stadium (30,200)

Gary Shook

MW Preview

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

MOUNTAIN DIVISION

1 *Boise State* **BRONCOS** 11-2, 7-1 MW

2 *Wyoming* **COWBOYS** 8-4, 6-2 MW

3 *Air Force* **FALCONS** 8-4, 5-3 MW

4 *Utah State* **AGGIES** 5-7, 4-4 MW

5 *Colorado State* **RAMS** 4-8, 3-5 MW

6 *New Mexico* **LOBOS** 4-9, 1-7 MW

WEST DIVISION

1 *Nevada* **WOLF PACK** 7-6, 5-3 MW

2 *San Diego State* **AZTECS** 7-5, 5-3 MW

3 *Hawaii* **RAINBOW WARRIORS** 6-7, 4-4 MW

4 *Fresno State* **BULLDOGS** 5-7, 3-5 MW

5 *San Jose State* **SPARTANS** 5-7, 3-5 MW

6 *UNLV* **REBELS** 2-10, 2-6 MW

MW Championship: **Boise State over Nevada**

Games to Watch

SEPT. 12
BOISE STATE AT AIR FORCE
The top two teams in the Mountain Division last year, the Broncos and Falcons face off in what could be another battle for division supremacy.

SEPT. 19
FLORIDA STATE AT BOISE STATE
The Broncos upset the Noles in Tallahassee last season. New FSU coach Mike Norvell leads the quest for revenge on the Smurf Turf.

SEPT. 26
SAN DIEGO STATE AT NEVADA
Brady Hoke's second tour of duty as San Diego State coach takes him and the Aztecs to Reno for a key West Division battle.

OCT. 3
NAVY AT AIR FORCE
Another spirited three-way battle for the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy features this matchup between 2019's top two rushing teams.

OCT. 3
NEVADA AT HAWAII
The reigning SoFi Hawaii Bowl champs welcome Nevada to the Islands as Todd Graham tries to put his stamp on the Hawaii program.

OCT. 17
SAN DIEGO STATE AT WYOMING
Craig Bohl has built a sneaky-good program in Laramie. His Arizona Bowl champions welcome San Diego State for a key MW matchup.

Byrd: Peter Brouillet; Bachmeier: John Kelly

2020 Unit Rankings

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
Air Force	2	3	12	1	5	2	11
Boise State	1	1	1	9	3	1	2
Colorado State	6	9	3	12	4	7	8
Fresno State	10	5	10	5	7	3	7
Hawaii	3	7	6	4	11	9	4
Nevada	5	6	4	8	6	8	5
New Mexico	11	11	9	10	10	10	10
San Diego State	12	8	8	3	1	5	1
San Jose State	9	12	2	11	9	11	6
UNLV	7	4	5	7	12	12	12
Utah State	8	10	7	6	8	6	9
Wyoming	4	2	11	2	2	4	3

Recruiting by School

1. Boise State
2. UNLV
3. Colorado State
4. San Diego State
5. New Mexico
6. Air Force
7. Wyoming
8. San Jose State
9. Utah State
10. Nevada
11. Fresno State
12. Hawaii

Hank Bachmeier

Jordan Byrd

2020 Bowl Projections

Arizona Bowl: San Diego State vs. Buffalo
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl: Air Force vs. Toledo
Hawaii Bowl: Nevada vs. Marshall
Los Angeles Bowl: Boise State vs. UCLA
New Mexico Bowl: Wyoming vs. BYU

MW Coordinator Carousel

Boise State: Offense
New: Eric Kiesau
Old: Zak Hill, Eric Kiesau

Colorado State: Offense
New: Joey Lynch
Old: Dave Johnson

Colorado State: Defense
New: Chuck Heater
Old: John Jancek

Fresno State: Defense
New: William Inge
Old: Bert Watts

Hawaii: Offense
New: G.J. Kinne, Tony Hull
Old: Brian Smith

Hawaii: Defense
New: Victor Santa Cruz, Jacob Yoro
Old: Corey Batoon

Nevada: Defense
New: Brian Ward
Old: Jeff Casteel

New Mexico: Offense
New: Derek Warehime
Old: Joe Dailey

New Mexico: Defense
New: Rocky Long
Old: Jordan Peterson

San Diego State: Offense
New: Jeff Hecklinski
Old: Jeff Horton

San Diego State: Defense
New: Kurt Mattix
Old: Zach Arnett

UNLV: Offense
New: Marcus Arroyo
Old: Garin Justice

UNLV: Defense
New: Peter Hansen
Old: Tim Skipper

Utah State: Offense
New: Bodie Reeder
Old: Mike Sanford Jr.

Utah State: Defense
New: Stacy Collins, Frank Maile
Old: Justin Ena

Wyoming: Defense
New: Jay Sawvel
Old: Jake Dickert

OCT. 24
BOISE STATE AT HAWAII
Todd Graham's Rainbow Warriors, 10-game winners in 2019, could present a stern test for the Moutain Division favorites.

OCT. 24
AIR FORCE AT WYOMING
Wyoming ranked 11th in the nation in rushing defense in 2019. Air Force had the second-ranked rushing offense. Something has to give.

NOV. 6
BYU AT BOISE STATE
BYU coach Kalani Sitake likely saved his job with last season's win over the then-No. 14 Broncos. The task gets tougher on the blue turf.

NOV. 21
BOISE STATE AT WYOMING
The Broncos may need to avoid a late stumble in Laramie — a tough place to win — to secure another Mountain Division title.

NOV. 21
SAN DIEGO STATE AT FRESNO STATE
New Fresno State coach Kalen De-Boer will be hoping to jump-start the program's momentum. A win in this matchup would be huge.

NOV. 28
HAWAII AT SAN DIEGO STATE
The West Division title and a berth in the MW Championship Game could be on the line for two coaches seeking to establish themselves in new jobs.

Warren Jackson

MW Returning Leaders

Passing	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	AVG/G
Patrick O'Brien, Colorado State	338	209	61.8	2,803	13	7	254.8
Hank Bachmeier, Boise State	219	137	62.6	1,879	9	6	234.9
Carson Strong, Nevada	374	237	63.4	2,335	11	7	233.5

Rushing	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
Xazavian Valladay, Wyoming	247	1,265	5.1	6	62	105.4
Charles Williams, UNLV	212	1,257	5.9	11	80	104.8
Kadin Remsberg, Air Force	181	1,050	5.8	8	29	80.8

Receiving	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
Tre Walker, San Jose State	79	1,161	14.7	2	50	116.1
Warren Jackson, Colorado State	77	1,119	14.5	8	87	111.9
Jared Smart, Hawaii	87	1,129	13.0	5	58	75.3

Tackles: Justin Rice, Fresno State (112), Troy Lefeged Jr., Utah State (104)
Sacks: Dom Peterson, Nevada (9.0), Solomon Byrd, Wyoming (6.5)
Interceptions: Tariq Thompson, San Diego State (4), five players tied with 3

2019 MW Standings

MOUNTAIN	MW	OVERALL	WEST	MW	OVERALL
Boise State	8-0	12-2	Hawaii	5-3	10-5
Air Force	7-1	11-2	San Diego State	5-3	10-3
Utah State	6-2	7-6	Nevada	4-4	7-6
Wyoming	4-4	8-5	San Jose State	2-6	5-7
Colorado State	3-5	4-8	Fresno State	2-6	4-8
New Mexico	0-8	2-10	UNLV	2-6	4-8

2019 Bowl Results

Arizona Bowl: Wyoming 38, Georgia State 17

Frisco Bowl: Kent State 51, Utah State 41

Famous Idaho Potato Bowl: Ohio 30, Nevada 21

New Mexico Bowl: San Diego State 48, Central Michigan 11

Hawaii Bowl: Hawaii 38, BYU 34

Cheez-It Bowl: Air Force 31, Washington State 21

Las Vegas Bowl: Washington 38, Boise State 7

2019 MW Team Stats & Rankings

Offense

	SCORING	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
Air Force	34.1 (2)	298.5 (1)	123.2 (12)	421.8 (6)
Boise State	34.7 (1)	167.3 (5)	261.7 (5)	429.0 (4)
Colorado State	28.1 (7)	132.2 (10)	305.3 (3)	437.4 (2)
Fresno State	30.0 (5)	159.3 (6)	226.8 (7)	386.0 (8)
Hawaii	33.9 (3)	133.9 (9)	337.1 (2)	471.0 (1)
Nevada	21.3 (11)	115.6 (11)	249.7 (6)	365.3 (10)
New Mexico	22.3 (10)	205.3 (3)	195.0 (10)	400.3 (7)
San Diego State	21.2 (12)	140.5 (8)	202.6 (9)	343.2 (12)
San Jose State	30.1 (4)	89.4 (12)	338.0 (1)	427.4 (5)
UNLV	24.2 (9)	168.2 (4)	206.2 (8)	374.3 (9)
Utah State	29.2 (6)	152.2 (7)	279.1 (4)	431.3 (3)
Wyoming	25.4 (8)	214.8 (2)	136.2 (11)	350.9 (11)

Defense

	SCORING	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
Air Force	19.8 (3)	100.5 (2)	219.1 (4)	319.6 (2)
Boise State	21.9 (4)	112.7 (4)	233.6 (6)	346.3 (3)
Colorado State	31.2 (7)	195.8 (9)	181.6 (1)	377.4 (5)
Fresno State	30.1 (5)	160.6 (6)	259.2 (11)	419.8 (7)
Hawaii	31.9 (8T)	202.8 (11)	228.5 (5)	431.3 (8)
Nevada	31.9 (8T)	149.2 (5)	250.8 (8)	400.1 (6)
New Mexico	37.2 (12)	164.3 (7)	321.4 (12)	485.7 (12)
San Diego State	12.7 (1)	75.4 (1)	212.4 (3)	287.8 (1)
San Jose State	31.9 (8T)	232.1 (12)	211.7 (2)	443.8 (11)
UNLV	33.0 (11)	186.2 (8)	256.2 (9)	442.3 (10)
Utah State	30.7 (6)	201.9 (10)	238.6 (7)	440.5 (9)
Wyoming	17.8 (2)	107.1 (3)	256.7 (10)	363.8 (4)

Jackson: Colorado State Athletics; Valladay: Troy Babbitt/Wyoming Athletics; Meeks: Air Force Athletics

ALL-MW TEAM

First-Team Offense

QB	**Hank Bachmeier**	6-1	200	So.	Boise State
RB	**Xazavian Valladay**	6-0	196	Jr.	Wyoming
RB	**Charles Williams**	5-9	190	Sr.	UNLV
AP	**Khalil Shakir**	6-0	195	Jr.	Boise State
WR	**Warren Jackson**	6-6	215	Sr.	Colorado State
WR	**Tre Walker**	5-11	180	Sr.	San Jose State
TE	**Trey McBride**	6-4	260	Jr.	Colorado State
C	**Keegan Cryder**	6-4	309	Jr.	Wyoming
OL	**Nolan Laufenberg**	6-3	295	Sr.	Air Force
OL	**Parker Ferguson**	6-5	280	Sr.	Air Force
OL	**Ilm Manning**	6-4	280	Jr.	Hawaii
OL	**John Ojukwu**	6-6	311	Jr.	Boise State

Xazavian Valladay

Demonte Meeks

First-Team Defense

DL	**Dom Peterson**	6-0	295	Jr.	Nevada
DL	**Cameron Thomas**	6-5	260	So.	San Diego State
DL	**Scale Igiehon**	6-2	308	Jr.	Boise State
DL	**Keshawn Banks**	6-4	270	Jr.	San Diego State
LB	**Demonte Meeks**	6-1	235	Sr.	Air Force
LB	**Justin Rice**	6-2	225	Sr.	Fresno State
LB	**Riley Whimpey**	6-1	230	Sr.	Boise State
CB	**Jalen Walker**	6-0	190	Sr.	Boise State
CB	**Darren Hall**	6-0	180	Jr.	San Diego State
S	**Kekaula Kaniho**	5-10	185	Sr.	Boise State
S	**Tariq Thompson**	6-0	200	Sr.	San Diego State

First-Team Specialists

K	**Brandon Talton**	5-8	165	So.	Nevada
P	**Ryan Stonehouse**	5-11	180	Sr.	Colorado State
KR	**Savon Scarver**	5-11	180	Sr.	Utah State
PR	**Avery Williams**	5-9	188	Sr.	Boise State

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	**Donald Hammond III**	6-2	220	Sr.	Air Force
RB	**George Holani**	5-11	205	So.	Boise State
RB	**Kadin Remsberg**	5-9	185	Sr.	Air Force
AP	**Ronnie Rivers**	5-8	183	Sr.	Fresno State
WR	**Romeo Doubs**	6-2	195	Jr.	Nevada
WR	**Jared Smart**	6-0	190	Sr.	Hawaii
TE	**Marcus Williams**	6-3	209	Sr.	New Mexico
C	**Kyle Stapley**	6-3	301	Sr.	New Mexico
OL	**Syrus Tuitele**	6-6	300	Sr.	Fresno State
OL	**Jack Snyder**	6-5	291	Sr.	San Jose State
OL	**Solo Vaipulu**	6-2	310	Jr.	Hawaii
OL	**Logan Harris**	6-3	310	Sr.	Wyoming

Ronnie Rivers
Fresno State

Miles Reed
Hawaii

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	**Jordan Jackson**	6-5	270	Sr.	Air Force
DL	**Manny Jones**	6-4	275	Sr.	Colorado State
DL	**Garrett Crall**	6-5	233	Sr.	Wyoming
DL	**Solomon Byrd**	6-4	247	So.	Wyoming
LB	**Jacobi Hearn**	6-0	218	Sr.	New Mexico
LB	**Chad Muma**	6-3	227	Jr.	Wyoming
LB	**Demetri Washington**	6-3	260	So.	Boise State
CB	**Cortez Davis**	5-11	180	Sr.	Hawaii
CB	**Avery Williams**	5-9	188	Sr.	Boise State
S	**Dwayne Johnson Jr**	.6-2	215	Sr.	San Diego State
S	**Shaq Bond**	5-10	190	Sr.	Utah State

Garrett Crall
Wyoming

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	**Matt Araiza**	6-2	195	So.	San Diego State
P	**Tyson Dyer**	6-2	206	Sr.	New Mexico
KR	**Elijah Lilly**	6-0	160	Sr.	New Mexico
PR	**Dante Wright**	5-9	170	So.	Colorado State

Shaq Bond
Utah State

THIRD-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	**Chevan Cordeiro**	6-1	190	So.	Hawaii
RB	**Miles Reed**	5-8	185	Jr.	Hawaii
RB	**Toa Taua**	5-9	210	Jr.	Nevada
AP	**Jordan Nathan**	5-8	180	Sr.	Utah State
WR	**Randal Grimes**	6-4	205	Jr.	UNLV
WR	**Dante Wright**	5-9	170	So.	Colorado State
TE	**John Bates**	6-6	256	Sr.	Boise State
C	**Taaga Tuulima**	6-2	290	Sr.	Hawaii
OL	**Nate Brown**	6-4	300	Sr.	Nevada
OL	**Teton Saltes**	6-6	301	Sr.	New Mexico
OL	**William Dunkle**	6-5	350	So.	San Diego State
OL	**Julio Garcia**	6-3	320	Sr.	UNLV

THIRD-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	**Kevin Atkins**	6-2	295	Sr.	Fresno State
DL	**Cade Hall**	6-2	260	Jr.	San Jose State
DL	**Ravontae Holt**	6-4	287	Jr.	Wyoming
DL	**Ellison Hubbard**	6-1	285	Sr.	Colorado State
LB	**Troy Lefeged Jr.**	5-11	195	Sr.	Utah State
LB	**Lawson Hall**	6-0	230	Sr.	Nevada
LB	**Dequan Jackson**	6-1	230	Jr.	Colorado State
CB	**Milton Bugg III**	6-0	175	Sr.	Air Force
CB	**EJ Muhammad**	5-11	190	Sr.	Nevada
S	**Jay Lenard**	6-1	207	Sr.	San Jose State
S	**Keyon Blankenbaker**	5-10	175	Jr.	Wyoming

THIRD-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	**Matt Mercurio**	6-1	176	So.	San Jose State
P	**Joel Velazquez**	6-0	222	Sr.	Boise State
KR	**Jordan Byrd**	5-9	170	Jr.	San Diego State
PR	**Ronnie Rivers**	5-8	183	Sr.	Fresno State

Rivers: Fresno State Athletics; Reed: Hawaii Athletics; Crall: Wyoming Athletics; Bond: Utah State Athletics

AIR FORCE Falcons

National Forecast: **65** · MW Mountain Prediction: **3** · Projected Record: **8-4, 5-3 MW**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Duquesne
Sept.	12	Boise State
Sept.	19	at Purdue
Sept.	26	at Fresno State
Oct.	3	Navy
Oct.	10	at San Jose State
Oct.	17	Hawaii
Oct.	24	at Wyoming
Nov.	7	at Army
Nov.	14	Colorado State
Nov.	21	New Mexico
Nov.	28	at Utah State

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 11-2, 7-1 MW

Aug.	31	Colgate	W	48-7
Sept.	14	at Colorado (ot)	W	30-23
Sept.	20	at Boise State	L	19-30
Sept.	28	San Jose State	W	41-24
Oct.	5	at Navy	L	25-34
Oct.	12	Fresno State	W	43-24
Oct.	19	at Hawaii	W	56-26
Oct.	26	Utah State	W	31-7
Nov.	2	Army	W	17-13
Nov.	16	at Colorado State	W	38-21
Nov.	23	at New Mexico	W	44-22
Nov.	30	Wyoming	W	20-6
Dec.	27	vs. Wash. State #	W	31-21

#Cheez-It Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Blake Burris, DE, Dallas, TX
2. Wesley Ndago, C, Waco, TX
3. Adam Karas, OT, Arvada, CO
4. Lincoln Tuioti-Mariner, S, Las Vegas, NV
5. Jalen Hodo, S, Mesquite, TX
6. Ryan Ives, DE, Bradenton, FL
7. Alec Mock, LB, Matthews, NC
8. Kaiser Cambra-Cho, S, Honolulu, HI
9. Jameson Wang, QB, Westlake Village, CA
10. Cameron Everts, WR, Lampasas, TX

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MW	NATIONAL
Scoring	34.1 ppg	2	21
Rushing	298.5 ypg	1	2
Passing	123.2 ypg	12	125
Total	421.8 ypg	6	51
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	19.8 ppg	3	20
Rushing	100.5 ypg	2	7
Passing	219.1 ypg	4	51
Total	319.6 ypg	2	17
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
-2	-0.15	6	78

STAT CORNER

3.348

Air Force scored an average of 3.348 points per possession last season, which was the best mark of any G5 program and No. 5 nationally.

OFFENSE Donald Hammond III has demonstrated a knack for hitting the big passing plays made possible by Air Force's prolific running game. With Hammond directing the action, Falcons ranked second nationally in rushing and third in passing efficiency in 2019.

Hammond averaged 50 yards on his 13 TD passes last year, connecting primarily with departed seniors Ben Waters and Geraud Sanders. Replacements are ready in junior receivers Brandon Lewis and David Cormier along with touted sophomore tight end Kyle Patterson (who turned down an offer from Alabama).

Senior tailback Kadin Remsberg is back after 1,050-yard season and an MVP performance in the Cheez-It Bowl, and tall, slender fullback Timothy Jackson returns after a breakout campaign that included four consecutive 100-yard games.

Potential All-America guard Nolan Laufenberg and tackle Parker Ferguson are three-year starters up front and should be joined by three fellow seniors.

DEFENSE Air Force ranked seventh nationally last season against the run (100.5 ypg) despite a schedule that included two of the nation's top three rushing offenses. Maintaining that strength will be a challenge with the loss of 330-pound nose guard Mosese Fifita to graduation.

Veterans return on the defensive line with Jordan Jackson at end and Christopher Herrera at tackle.

The Falcons should be loaded at inside linebacker with the return of top tackler Demonte Meeks, who will be joined by former top recruit TD Blackmon.

The secondary will break in three new starters, but several years of strong recruiting should leave the Falcons faster at all of those spots. Sophomore safety Tre Taylor was a ballhawk in spring, when the Falcons managed to get all but two practices in before the coronavirus pandemic shut things down. Cornerback Tre' Bugg is the lone returner and is entering his third year as a starter.

SPECIALISTS Replacements are needed at placekicker and punter. The placekicking void will be much harder to fill, as Jake Koehnke finished a perfect 13-of-13 on field-goal attempts last year. Cole Johnson and Brice Honaker are the top options. There are no obvious candidates in the return game, but the Falcons place little emphasis on those roles, opting for fair catches and touchbacks when possible.

FINAL ANALYSIS Air Force streaked to eight straight wins to close the season, and the key pieces are back. Hammond stretches defenses that can't afford to do anything but crowd the box to contend against the diverse rushing attack. Hammond, Remsberg, Jackson, Cormier, Lewis and Patterson are as good a collection of skill-position talent as this program has ever assembled. "There's talent all across the board everywhere," Hammond says. "[This] year's going to be really exciting."

Rules changes at the academy allow for bigger bodies, and Troy Calhoun's program has seized the opportunity. Closing the gap on physical mismatches was a big reason the Falcons won two games vs. Pac-12 teams last year (Colorado, Washington State).

The Falcons' most pivotal tests — Boise State and Navy — will be played at home in 2020. Pass those, and there will be clear paths to the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy and the MW title.

Donald Hammond III

"They're probably the most talented of the service academies heading into the year, and they're more creative on offense. The quarterback is the real deal."

— An opposing MW assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (4)				
WR	7	David Cormier (Jr.)	83	Jake Spiewak (Jr.)
WR	13	Brandon Lewis (Jr.)	27	Ben Peterson (Sr.)
LT	**77**	**Parker Ferguson (Sr.)**	79	Ryan Booth (Jr.)
LG	**66**	**Nolan Laufenberg (Sr.)**	73	Isaac Cochran (Jr.)
C	70	Nicholas Noyen (Sr.)	53	Joe Moore (Jr.)
RG	64	Kyle Krepsz (Sr.)	62	Hawk Wimmer (Jr.)
RT	76	Adam Jewell (Sr.)	78	George Silvanic (Sr.)
TE	88	Kyle Patterson (So.)	82	Rhett Harms (Sr.)
QB	**5**	**Donald Hammond III (Sr.)**	12	Warren Bryan (Jr.)
RB	**24**	**Kadin Remsberg (Sr.)**	22	Joshua Stoner (Sr.)
FB	34	Timothy Jackson (Jr.)	32	Matthew Murla (Sr.)

DEFENSE (5)				Returning Starters in Bold
DE	**94**	**Jordan Jackson (Sr.)**	86	Michael Purcell (Sr.)
NT	96	Joey Woodring (Sr.)	54	Kenny Ngaima (Jr.)
DT	**49**	**Christopher Herrera (Jr.)**	97	Kaleb Nunez (Sr.)
OLB	**8**	**Lakota Wills (Sr.)**	30	Grant Donaldson (Sr.)
MLB	**38**	**Demonte Meeks (Sr.)**	42	William Trawick (Sr.)
MLB	37	TD Blackmon (Jr.)	32	Grant Young (Jr.)
OLB	36	Caleb Humphrey (Jr.)	44	Parker Noren (Sr.)
CB	**3**	**Tre' Bugg (Sr.)**	4	James Jones IV (Sr.)
CB	9	Demani Hansford (Sr.)	7	David Eure (Jr.)
SS	10	Tre Taylor (So.)	39	Matthew Anderson (Sr.)
FS	21	Corvan Taylor (Jr.)	26	Jalen Mergerson (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	93	Brice Honaker (Jr.)	KR	22	Joshua Stoner (Sr.)
P	98	Joseph Carlson (Sr.)	PR	27	Ben Peterson (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Donald Hammond III, 111-56-1,316-6, 13 TDs
Rushing: Kadin Remsberg, 181 att., 1,050 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Ben Peterson, 3 rec., 25 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: Demonte Meeks, 98
Sacks: Demonte Meeks, 4.0
Interceptions: Tre' Bugg, 3

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Troy Calhoun
Record at School: 98-69 (13 years)
Career Record: 98-69 (13 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Thiessen
Defensive Coordinator: John Rudzinski
Colorado Springs, CO • Falcon Stadium (46,692)

Air Force Athletics

BOISE STATE Broncos

National Forecast: **23** · MW Mountain Prediction: **1** · Projected Record: **11-2, 7-1 MW**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Georgia Southern
Sept.	12	at Air Force
Sept.	19	Florida State
Sept.	25	at Marshall
Oct.	3	San Jose State
Oct.	17	Utah State
Oct.	24	at Hawaii
Oct.	31	UNLV
Nov.	6	BYU
Nov.	14	at New Mexico
Nov.	21	at Wyoming
Nov.	28	Colorado State

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 12-2, 8-0 MW

Aug.	31	at Florida State	W	36-31
Sept.	6	Marshall	W	14-7
Sept.	14	Portland State	W	45-10
Sept.	20	Air Force	W	30-19
Oct.	5	at UNLV	W	38-13
Oct.	12	Hawaii	W	59-37
Oct.	19	at BYU	L	25-28
Nov.	2	at San Jose State	W	52-42
Nov.	9	Wyoming (ot)	W	20-17
Nov.	16	New Mexico	W	42-9
Nov.	23	at Utah State	W	56-21
Nov.	29	at Colorado State	W	31-24
Dec.	7	Hawaii #	W	31-10
Dec.	21	vs. Washington %	L	7-38

#MW Championship %Las Vegas Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. LaTrell Caples, WR, Lancaster, TX
2. Semaj Verner, S, Lakewood, CA
3. Herbert Gums Jr., DT, Diboll, TX
4. Divine Obichere, DT, Los Angeles, CA*
5. Brandon Hernandez, OT, Yucaipa, CA
6. Donovan Clark, CB, Tacoma, WA
7. Austin Bolt, ATH, Boise, ID
8. Rodney Robinson, CB, San Bernardino, CA
9. Kyle Juergens, OG, San Juan Capistrano, CA
10. Robert Cooper, DE, Spanaway, WA

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MW	NATIONAL
Scoring	34.7 ppg	1	19
Rushing	167.3 ypg	5	59
Passing	261.7 ypg	5	38
Total	429.0 ypg	4	48
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	21.9 ppg	4	31
Rushing	112.7 ypg	4	15
Passing	233.6 ypg	6	77
Total	346.3 ypg	3	33
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
0	0.00	5	61

STAT CORNER

13.98

BSU stopped 13.98 percent of rushing attempts behind the line last season, which ranked second in the MW.

OFFENSE Boise State started three quarterbacks for the first time since 1993 because of a spate of injuries. When healthy, true freshman Hank Bachmeier lived up to his elite recruit status. Before his first injury, he had nine TDs to three INTs in his first 176 attempts, but he had no TDs and three INTs on 43 attempts in his last two starts.

Bachmeier will be aided by a deep receiving corps led by junior Khalil Shakir, a breakout star in the making after a team-best 63 catches and nine total TDs last season. Seniors CT Thomas and Octavius Evans provide a reliable slot presence and a strong frame, respectively. The top three running backs return, including sophomore George Holani, who extended Boise State's streak of 1,000-yard rushers to 11 straight seasons with a 1,014-yard true freshman campaign.

Perhaps the biggest question for new OC Eric Kiesau is the offensive line, which struggled mightily at times and must replace four starters, including All-MW regulars Ezra Cleveland and John Molchon. Junior John Ojukwu flips from right tackle to left tackle to fill Cleveland's spot, a position that has churned out a number of NFL players in the last 15 years.

DEFENSE Gone is the Mountain West's all-time sack leader, Curtis Weaver, who had 34 in three seasons, but his STUD end spot has depth. Sophomore Demitri Washington is the likely replacement, and he finished strong with four sacks in the last five games, a span in which Weaver had one.

The Broncos were one of the best third-down defenses in the country the first half of the season (27.2 percent), but faded, allowing 49.1 percent the rest of the way. The Broncos have two starting senior corners, plus an exciting youngster in sophomore Markel Reed, but must replace both safeties. Senior nickel Kekaula Kaniho is the team's best havoc creator.

Middle linebacker Ezekiel Noa suffered a torn ACL on Sept. 20, and it tested an already thin linebacker group that managed just one interception and one forced fumble the rest of the way. Grad transfer Brock Miller was a starter at NC State and will add needed experience.

Boise State loses all three starters on a defensive line that helped it finish 15th in rush defense (112.7 ypg). No one outside of junior nose tackle Scale Igiehon returns with more than two career tackles. Two transfers — Shane Irwin and Jackson Cravens — will get a chance to start beside the sturdy Igiehon.

SPECIALISTS Special teams were solid in 2019, paced by outstanding punt returner Avery Williams, who ran two back for TDs. Joel Velazquez was inconsistent punting but improved later in the year. Stetson transfer Jonny Messina (34-of-45 on field goals for his career) enters the placekicking mix this fall.

FINAL ANALYSIS Replacing all but one starter on the offensive and defensive lines is a major issue, but Boise State doesn't rebuild; it reloads. A healthy Bachmeier, surrounded by weapons, should keep the Broncos' offense potent.

The Broncos have built solid depth at most positions and should make it 18 of the last 22 seasons with at least 10 wins. With seven home games (including Florida State and BYU), that should only help. Boise State will again be a Mountain West favorite and be in the New Year's Six mix right up until the end.

Hank Bachmeier

"The best program in the conference still by a decent margin. They've got some big questions this year on both lines. If they don't go on a run, that's why."

— An opposing MW assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (5)				
WR	2	Khalil Shakir (Jr.)	82	Stefan Cobbs (So.)
WR	6	CT Thomas (Sr.)	27	Shea Whiting (Fr.)
WR	1	Octavius Evans (Sr.)	18	Billy Bowens (So.)
LT	**70**	**John Ojukwu (Jr.)**	73	Nick Crabtree (Sr.)
LG	68	Jake Stetz (Sr.)	72	Dallas Holliday (So.)
C	55	K. Holomalia-Gonzalez (So.)	71	Donte Harrington (Sr.)
RG	71	Donte Harrington (Sr.)	69	Garrett Curran (So.)
RT	66	Ben Dooley (Fr.)	69	Garrett Curran (So.)
TE	**85**	**John Bates (Sr.)**	88	Tyneil Hopper (So.)
QB	**19**	**Hank Bachmeier (So.)**	10	Chase Cord (Jr.)
RB	**24**	**George Holani (So.)**	**34**	**Robert Mahone (Sr.)**
DEFENSE (6)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	55	Shane Irwin (Jr.)	19	Aisa Kelemete (Jr.)
NT	90	Scale Igiehon (Jr.)	97	Keeghan Freeborn (So.)
DT	94	Jackson Cravens (So.)	62	Scott Matlock (So.)
STUD	38	Demitri Washington (So.)	53	Sam Whitney (Sr.)
MLB	**7**	**Ezekiel Noa (Jr.)**	**25**	**Benton Wickersham (Sr.)**
OLB	**44**	**Riley Whimpey (Sr.)**	9	Brock Miller (Sr.)
CB	**26**	**Avery Williams (Sr.)**	8	Markel Reed (So.)
CB	**15**	**Jalen Walker (Sr.)**	22	Tyric LeBeauf (So.)
NB	**28**	**Kekaula Kaniho (Sr.)**	20	Roman Kafentzis (Jr.)
S	33	JL Skinner (So.)	32	Jordan Happle (Sr.)
S	21	Tyreque Jones (Jr.)	18	Semaj Verner (Fr.)
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	4	Jonny Messina (Sr.)	**KR** 2	Khalil Shakir (Jr.)
P	46	Joel Velazquez (Sr.)	**PR** 26	Avery Williams (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Hank Bachmeier, 219-137-1,879-6, 9 TDs
Rushing: George Holani, 192 att., 1,014 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving: Khalil Shakir, 63 rec., 872 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Riley Whimpey, 80
Sacks: Demitri Washington, 4.5
Interceptions: 5 tied with 1

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Bryan Harsin
Record at School: 52-15 (5 years)
Career Record: 59-20 (6 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Eric Kiesau
Defensive Coordinators: Spencer Danielson, Jeff Schmedding
Boise, ID • Stadium: Albertsons Stadium (36,387)

John Kelly/Boise State Athletics

COLORADO STATE Rams

National Forecast: **101** · MW Mountain Prediction: **5** · Projected Record: **4-8, 3-5 MW**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Colorado
Sept.	12	at Oregon State
Sept.	19	Northern Colorado
Sept.	26	at Vanderbilt
Oct.	3	Fresno State
Oct.	10	New Mexico
Oct.	24	at UNLV
Oct.	31	Wyoming
Nov.	7	at San Diego State
Nov.	14	at Air Force
Nov.	21	Utah State
Nov.	28	at Boise State

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 4-8, 3-5 MW

Aug.	30	vs. Colorado #	L	31-52
Sept.	7	Western Illinois	W	38-13
Sept.	14	at Arkansas	L	34-55
Sept.	21	Toledo	L	35-41
Sept.	28	at Utah State	L	24-34
Oct.	5	San Diego State	L	10-24
Oct.	12	at New Mexico	W	35-21
Oct.	26	at Fresno State	W	41-31
Nov.	2	UNLV	W	37-17
Nov.	16	Air Force	L	21-38
Nov.	22	at Wyoming	L	7-17
Nov.	29	Boise State	L	24-31

#Denver

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. James Mitchell, DT, Duncanville, TX
2. Owen Snively, OG, Tilton, NH
3. Tautai Marks, C, Santa Ana, CA
4. Casey Irons Jr., DE, Gilmer, TX
5. Kyjuan Herndon, ATH, Deltona, FL
6. Dirk Nelson, C, Visalia, CA
7. Aaron Moore, LB, Murfreesboro, TN
8. Gage Gaynor, C, Pompano Beach, FL
9. Brian Crespo, OT, Fort Collins, CO
10. Cameron Bariteau, DT, Hightstown, NJ

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MW	NATIONAL
Scoring	28.1 ppg	7	71
Rushing	132.2 ypg	10	103
Passing	305.3 ypg	3	14
Total	437.4 ypg	2	34
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	31.2 ppg	7	91
Rushing	195.8 ypg	9	104
Passing	181.6 ypg	1	7
Total	377.4 ypg	5	52
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
-11	-0.92	11	123

STAT CORNER

15.79%

The Rams turned the ball over on 15.79 percent of their offensive possessions last season, the third-highest rate in the Mountain West.

OFFENSE With a new head coach, Steve Addazio, bringing in a new staff and system, it's difficult to get a solid handle on what Colorado State's offense will look like this fall. But even after a shortened spring session, it's apparent Addazio and offensive coordinator Joey Lynch know they have some dangerous weapons in the passing game.

Senior Warren Jackson, a 6'6", 215-pounder, is the latest in a run of talented receivers to come through the program in recent years, as evidenced by his 77 catches for 1,119 yards and eight touchdowns in 2019. Pair that with the production of Dante Wright, a sophomore speedster who did a little bit of everything last season; hard-to-bring-down tight end Trey McBride, a junior; Auburn transfer Nate Craig-Myers; and a returning quarterback in senior Patrick O'Brien, and the Rams should have another formidable passing attack.

Addazio, though, understands the need for balance to keep defenses honest and is determined to repair a rushing offense that was among the worst in the nation a year ago, averaging just 132.2 yards per game. That won't be easy with an offensive line that returns just two starters and only two others who saw any kind of significant playing time. Senior Marcus McElroy and sophomore Jaylen Thomas, who combined for 592 yards as the Nos. 2 and 3 running backs a year ago, move up to the Nos. 1 and 2 spots this fall.

DEFENSE CSU reached way back into its past while bringing in its fourth defensive coordinator in six years in Chuck Heater, a well-traveled veteran who held the same position at the school on Earle Bruce's staff in 1991-92. Heater is switching the Rams from the 3-4 alignment they ran the past two seasons back to a 4-3 look, but he might not have enough depth on the defensive line to make it work right away.

There's some talent to work with up front in veteran end Manny Jones and tackles Ellison Hubbard, Devin Phillips and the oft-injured Toby McBride. But some youngsters, possibly even a true freshman or two, are going to have to be part of the playing rotation. There's some decent experience at linebacker (Dequan Jackson and Cam'ron Carter) and in the secondary (cornerbacks Rashad Ajayi, Marshaun Cameron and Keevan Bailey and safety Logan Stewart), but depth will again be a significant concern.

SPECIALISTS Senior punter Ryan Stonehouse, who averaged an impressive 46.4 yards per kick (No. 9 nationally), is one of the few constants in a program undergoing major changes. The kicking game was otherwise a mess last year, with three placekickers combining to make 14-of-24 field goals.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Rams have a lot of room for improvement after going 3–9 in 2018 and 4–8 in 2019 under Mike Bobo, who was fired. But Addazio, who went 44–44 the past seven seasons at Boston College, and his staff didn't get much time to work directly with their team in the offseason, and two of the biggest areas that need fixing — the offensive and defensive lines — are the most difficult to address without some of the full-team, full-contact practices that were lost. One benefit, though, is a schedule that has the Rams facing five other schools with first-year coaches (Colorado, Northern Colorado, Fresno State, New Mexico and UNLV) in its first seven games.

Warren Jackson

"Steve (Addazio) is a different kind of hire. How set up are they to recruit Colorado? This school wants to win big; not sure this fit can create that."

— An opposing MW assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)				
WR	**9**	**Warren Jackson (Sr.)**	3	E.J. Scott (Jr.)
WR	4	Nate Craig-Myers (Sr.)	1	Jadon Walker (Jr.)
WR	22	Dante Wright (So.)	20	A'Jon Vivens (So.)
LT	**69**	**Barry Wesley (Jr.)**	76	John Blasco Jr. (Jr.)
LG	55	Cam Reddy (Jr.)	70	Joctavis Phillips (Jr.)
C	**64**	**Scott Brooks (Sr.)**	60	Florian McCann (So.)
RG	56	Ches Jackson (So.)	63	Alex Azusenis (Fr.)
RT	77	Keith Williams (Sr.)	57	Kavesz Sherard (So.)
TE	**85**	**Trey McBride (Jr.)**	16	Cameron Butler (Sr.)
QB	**12**	**Patrick O'Brien (Sr.)**	13	Todd Centeio (Jr.)
RB	**32**	**Marcus McElroy (Sr.)**	27	Jaylen Thomas (So.)
DEFENSE (7)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	**33**	**Manny Jones (Sr.)**	90	Casey Irons Jr. (Fr.)
DT	**98**	**Ellison Hubbard (Sr.)**	97	Toby McBride (Sr.)
DT	**94**	**Devin Phillips (Jr.)**	92	Livingston Paogofie (Sr.)
DE	96	Cian Quiroga (Fr.)	56	Rushton Roberts (So.)
OLB	12	Cam'ron Carter (Jr.)	55	Tavian Brown (Fr.)
MLB	**5**	**Dequan Jackson (Jr.)**	43	Troy Golden (So.)
OLB	42	Mohamed Kamara (So.)	47	Bam Amina (Fr.)
CB	**4**	**Rashad Ajayi (Jr.)**	18	Brandon Crossley (So.)
CB	25	Keevan Bailey (So.)	**26**	**Marshaun Cameron (Sr.)**
S	2	Dajon Owens (Sr.)	8	Quinn Brinnon (Jr.)
S	**9**	**Logan Stewart (Sr.)**	10	Tywan Francis (Jr.)
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	95	Cayden Camper (So.)	**KR** 25	Keevan Bailey (So.)
P	41	Ryan Stonehouse (Sr.)	**PR** 22	Dante Wright (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Patrick O'Brien, 338-209-2,803-7, 13 TDs
Rushing: Marcus McElroy, 80 att., 370 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Warren Jackson, 77 rec., 1,119 yds., 8 TDs
Tackles: Dequan Jackson, 87
Sacks: Ellison Hubbard, 5.5
Interceptions: Logan Stewart, 2

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Steve Addazio
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 57-55 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Joey Lynch
Defensive Coordinator: Chuck Heater
Fort Collins, CO • Canvas Stadium (41,000)

Cris Tiller/Colorado State Athletics

NEW MEXICO Lobos

National Forecast: **119** · MW Mountain Prediction: **6** · Projected Record: **4-9, 1-7 MW**

2020 SCHEDULE

Aug.	29	Idaho State
Sept.	5	at Mississippi State
Sept.	12	at USC
Sept.	19	at New Mexico State
Oct.	3	Massachusetts
Oct.	10	at Colorado State
Oct.	17	Nevada
Oct.	24	at Utah State
Oct.	31	San Jose State
Nov.	7	at Hawaii
Nov.	14	Boise State
Nov.	21	at Air Force
Nov.	28	Wyoming

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 2-10, 0-8 MW

Aug.	31	Sam Houston State	W	39-31
Sept.	14	at Notre Dame	L	14-66
Sept.	21	New Mexico State	W	55-52
Sept.	28	at Liberty	L	10-17
Oct.	4	at San Jose State	L	21-32
Oct.	12	Colorado State	L	21-35
Oct.	19	at Wyoming	L	10-23
Oct.	26	Hawaii	L	31-45
Nov.	2	at Nevada	L	10-21
Nov.	16	at Boise State	L	9-42
Nov.	23	Air Force	L	22-44
Nov.	30	Utah State	L	25-38

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Nathaniel Jones, RB, Bellflower, CA
2. Leke Asenuga, C, Richmond, TX
3. Jer'Marques Bailey, OG, Humble, TX
4. Bobby Wooden, WR, Pearland, TX
5. OJ Bartley, DE, Stockton, CA
6. Elijah Queen, WR, Harbor City, CA
7. Donald Jones, CB, Baton Rouge, LA
8. Quinn Potts, S, Compton, CA
9. Ian Shewell, DT, Gilbert, AZ
10. Syaire Riley, LB, Pacific Palisades, CA

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MW	NATIONAL
Scoring	22.3 ppg	10	106
Rushing	205.3 ypg	3	27
Passing	195.0 ypg	10	101
Total	400.3 ypg	7	69
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	37.2 ppg	12	125
Rushing	164.3 ypg	7	75
Passing	321.4 ypg	12	130
Total	485.7 ypg	12	129
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
-15	-1.25	12	128

STAT CORNER

16.88%

The Lobos turned the ball over 26 times in 154 drives last season, a 16.88 percent turnover rate that ranked 126th in FBS.

OFFENSE New head coach Danny Gonzales and offensive coordinator Derek Warehime are implementing a spread run-pass option offense. The Lobos have the quarterback for it — if he can make it through a season unscathed. Junior Tevaka Tuioti has 11 starts over three seasons but has missed a combined 12 games the last two seasons due to injury. He could benefit significantly under Warehime's scheme. Brandt Hughes and Trae Hall have experience if Tuioti falters.

UNM has speed at tailback with one-time quarterback Bryson Carroll, who had a 193-yard rushing performance vs. Colorado State last year, L.O. Johnson, Daevon Vigilant and Chad Alexander. The Lobos seek a bigger back who can get yardage between the tackles consistently. Junior Micah Gray and incoming freshman Nathaniel Jones are candidates.

Options abound at wide receiver, as the top four pass catchers return. Senior Jordan Kress averaged 18.9 yards per catch last season and had six TDs among his 28 receptions. Senior tight end Marcus Williams had 26 receptions and a 16.5-yard average. Senior Elijah Lilly returns after missing most of 2019 with a shoulder injury that required surgery.

The line is a question mark. UNM returns just two starters — tackle Teton Saltes and center Kyle Stapley — and the unit lacks size, though Ben Davis, a graduate transfer from Minnesota, adds some bulk.

DEFENSE The unit was 129th among 130 FBS teams in total defense and dead last in passing defense. Re-enter 70-year-old defensive coordinator Rocky Long (former UNM and San Diego State head coach) and his 3-3-5 blitz scheme. The Lobos were consistently top 30 in total defense during Long's 11-year UNM tenure, and his Aztecs ranked No. 5 in the nation last season at 287.8 yards allowed.

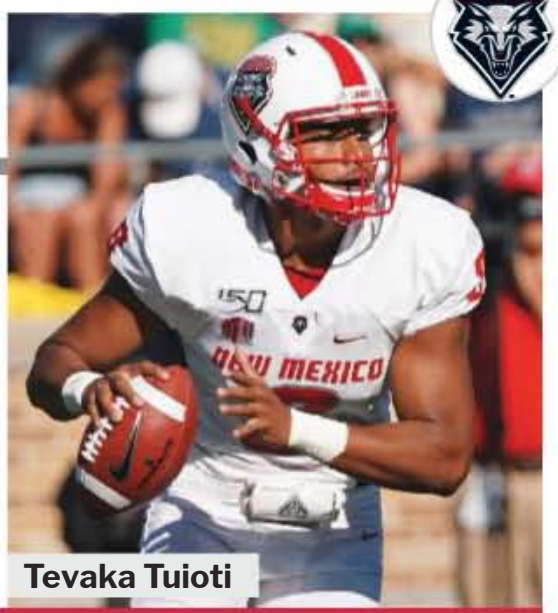
Nose tackle Langston Murray is the only returning regular on the line, although ends Ben Gansallo and Justin Harris and nose tackle Elmer Pauni have playing experience.

UNM is high on senior outside linebacker Jacobi Hearn and converted senior defensive end Joey Noble, who was the most improved player through eight spring practices before the shutdown.

The Lobos have talent in the secondary. Senior safeties Letayveon Beaton and Jerrick Reed II and sophomore cornerback Donte Martin are returning starters. Seniors Patrick Peek, Brandon Burton and Kameron Miller and junior Nico Bolden also have starting experience. UNM aims to play more man-to-man coverage and allow its aggressive blitz scheme to wreak havoc.

SPECIALISTS Senior Tyson Dyer, 10th in the nation at 46.1 yards per punt last season, could have the strongest leg in the Mountain West. Junior kicker Andrew Shelley hit 12-of-16 field goals last year but missed five extra points. In the return game, Alexander has ample speed, and Lilly could provide a boost.

FINAL ANALYSIS Gonzales, a former Long assistant, is looking to replicate the success UNM had from 2002-07 (five bowl appearances in six years). The strength and conditioning program was prominent in that success but was hampered this offseason by the pandemic. Still, UNM has an unusually large senior class (34) and could surprise the MW with multiple conference wins.



Tevaka Tuioti

"Rocky Long is big for them; that's gonna help Danny (Gonzales) build an identity of defense first. They're still a few years off in terms of talent, though."

— An opposing MW assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)				
WR	3	Elijah Lilly (Sr.)	17	E. Logan-Greene (Sr.)
WR	**9**	**Jordan Kress (Sr.)**	11	Cedric Patterson III (So.)
WR	**7**	**Anselem Umeh (Sr.)**	83	Blake Wells (Jr.)
LT	71	Ben Davis (Sr.)	65	Justice Spates (So.)
LG	66	Jacob Jankoviak (Sr.)	74	Greg Brown II (Fr.)
C	**64**	**Kyle Stapley (Sr.)**	68	Isaak Gutierrez (So.)
RG	73	Cade Briggs (So.)	56	Austin Cook (Sr.)
RT	**50**	**Teton Saltes (Sr.)**	67	Hayden Wilson (Jr.)
TE	**88**	**Marcus Williams (Sr.)**	85	Kyle Jarvis (Sr.)
QB	**8**	**Tevaka Tuioti (Jr.)**	12	Brandt Hughes (Jr.)
RB	6	Bryson Carroll (Jr.)	32	Micah Gray (Jr.)
DEFENSE (4)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	99	Ben Gansallo (Sr.)	17	Ben Bertram (So.)
NT	54	Langston Murray (Jr.)	55	Elmer Pauni (Sr.)
DE	92	Omar Darame (Fr.)	97	Justin Harris (Jr.)
OLB	23	Reco Hannah (Sr.)	19	Devin Sanders (Sr.)
MLB	46	Brandon Shook (Sr.)	98	Joey Noble (Sr.)
OLB	**20**	**Jacobi Hearn (Sr.)**	5	James Lewis (Sr.)
CB	14	Michael LoVett III (Sr.)	12	Antonio Hunt (Jr.)
CB	28	Tony Collier (Sr.)	**8**	**Donte Martin (So.)**
SS	3	Patrick Peek (Sr.)	**9**	**Jerrick Reed II (Sr.)**
FS	**15**	**Letayveon Beaton (Sr.)**	4	Shaddrick Lowery (Jr.)
S	21	Brandon Burton (Sr.)	13	Nico Bolden (Jr.)
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	94	Andrew Shelley (Jr.)	**KR** 21	Chad Alexander (Fr.)
P	96	Tyson Dyer (Sr.)	**PR** 8	Donte Martin (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Tevaka Tuioti, 195-102-1,460-6, 7 TDs
Rushing: Bryson Carroll, 105 att., 536 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Jordan Kress, 28 rec., 530 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Jerrick Reed II, 51
Sacks: Jacobi Hearn, 6.0
Interceptions: Jerrick Reed II, 1

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Danny Gonzales
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Derek Warehime
Defensive Coordinator: Rocky Long
Albuquerque, NM • Dreamstyle Stadium (39,224)

New Mexico Athletics

UTAH STATE Aggies

National Forecast: **98** · MW Mountain Prediction: **4** · Projected Record: **5-7, 4-4 MW**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3	Washington State
Sept.	12	Southern Utah
Sept.	19	at Washington
Oct.	2	at BYU
Oct.	10	San Diego State
Oct.	17	at Boise State
Oct.	24	New Mexico
Oct.	31	at Nevada
Nov.	7	at Wyoming
Nov.	14	Fresno State
Nov.	21	at Colorado State
Nov.	28	Air Force

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 7-6, 6-2 MW

Aug.	31	at Wake Forest	L	35-38
Sept.	7	Stony Brook	W	62-7
Sept.	21	at San Diego State	W	23-17
Sept.	28	Colorado State	W	34-24
Oct.	5	at LSU	L	6-42
Oct.	19	Nevada	W	36-10
Oct.	26	at Air Force	L	7-31
Nov.	2	BYU	L	14-42
Nov.	9	at Fresno State	W	37-35
Nov.	16	Wyoming	W	26-21
Nov.	23	Boise State	L	21-56
Nov.	30	at New Mexico	W	38-25
Dec.	20	vs. Kent State #	L	41-51

#Frisco Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. John Gentry, RB, Houston, TX
2. Justin McGriff, WR, Tampa, FL*
3. Poukesi Vakauta, DT, Euless, TX
4. Elelyon Noa, RB, La Mesa, CA
5. Luke Marion, S, Tualatin, OR
6. Dahlin Mesake, LB, Las Vegas, NV
7. Xavion Steele, CB, Orange, CA*
8. Broc Lane, TE, Gilbert, AZ
9. Jakob Robinson, CB, Orem, UT
10. Otto Tia, WR, Layton, UT

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MW	NATIONAL
Scoring	29.2 ppg	6	63
Rushing	152.2 ypg	7	73
Passing	279.1 ypg	4	31
Total	431.3 ypg	3	44
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	30.7 ppg	6	90
Rushing	201.9 ypg	10	110
Passing	238.6 ypg	7	86
Total	440.5 ypg	9	103
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
-2	-0.15	6	78

STAT CORNER

18.07

Utah State allowed only 18.07 seconds to elapse between offensive plays last season – nearly a full second faster than No. 2 UCF (18.92).

OFFENSE With eight starters back, this side of the ball should be solid. However, there is one big question mark, and that is who will fill the shoes of quarterback Jordan Love, who left a year early and was a first-round draft pick. Plus, the Aggies will have a new offensive coordinator in Bodie Reeder.

Junior Henry Colombi, who saw backup duty in six games last season, will have the inside track to replace Love but will be pushed by a host of youngsters. Utah State will still play with a fast pace, but there will be times they huddle up, unlike the past few seasons. Having gotten in just two spring practices, the Aggies feel behind on offense. "We've got to get reps. That's one of the most valuable things we lost," USU head coach Gary Andersen says. "We can't cry over spilt milk, but we lost a lot of reps with those quarterbacks."

The strength of the offensive unit is the line, with all five starters back, anchored by Alfred Edwards and Demytrick Ali'ifua. The Aggies want to be able to run this season. Jaylen Warren saw action in 12 games, rushing for 569 yards and five touchdowns. Warren will be pushed by a stable of eager underclassmen.

Tight end Carson Terrell is back, as are four of the top five wide receivers. Jordan Nathan caught 56 balls for 581 yards to lead the returnees, including Deven Thompkins, who made some big plays.

DEFENSE Injuries wreaked havoc on the Aggies a year ago, and walk-on Eric Munoz ended up starting by the end of the season at linebacker. The defensive line was senior-laden, so USU went with a 4-2 alignment. This year it will be mainly a 3-4.

"We didn't have the ability to play the odd front a year ago because we wouldn't have had our 11 best football players on the field," Andersen says.

Seniors Ritisoni Fata and Caden Andersen will anchor the nose guard spot, while Justus Te'i and UCLA transfer Marcus Moore will get the nod at the ends. Te'i had 51 tackles last season.

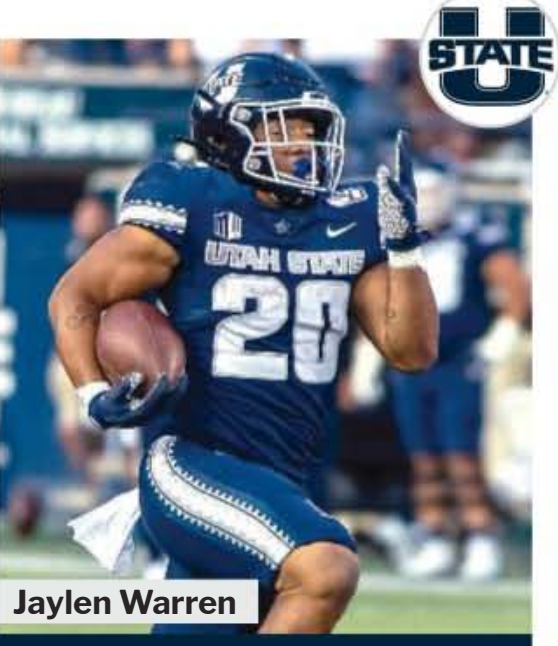
Tackling machine David Woodward declared for the NFL Draft, leaving a spot open at linebacker. Troy Lefeged Jr. has moved from safety to linebacker. Lefeged ended up leading the team in tackles with 104 when Woodward missed the last six games because of injury. Kevin Meitzenheimer started every game last year, finishing with 89 stops.

In the secondary, Shaq Bond is back at safety. He had 83 tackles and a team-best three interceptions.

SPECIALISTS Connor Coles must replace Lou Groza Award finalist Dominik Eberle, but Andersen feels good about his new kicker. Andersen also calls freshman Aussie punter Stephen Kotsanlee "a game-changer." Savon Scarver is always a threat on kickoffs, with five career TDs. Nathan handles punts.

FINAL ANALYSIS Improving on last year's 7–6 mark may be tough. The Aggies have a lot of unknowns and with virtually no spring practices will find themselves trying to play catch-up at some vital positions.

Andersen is in his second year of his second stint at USU and has made changes on offense and defense after last season. A tough schedule, including early non-conference road games against Washington and BYU, will do the Aggies no favors.



Jaylen Warren

"I don't think the offensive staff and Jordan Love ever really looked like they were on the same page. They're both gone now, so expect them to look a lot different."

— An opposing MW assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**16**	**Jordan Nathan (Sr.)**	17	Taylor Compton (Sr.)
WR	**13**	**Deven Thompkins (Jr.)**		Justin McGriff (So.)
WR	11	Savon Scarver (Sr.)	12	Ajani Carter (So.)
LT	**72**	**Alfred Edwards (Jr.)**	77	Andy Koch (So.)
LG	**75**	**Ty Shaw (Sr.)**	64	Heneli Bloomfield (So.)
C	**58**	**Demytrick Ali'ifua (Sr.)**	74	Chandler Dolphin (Jr.)
RG	**65**	**Karter Shaw (So.)**	60	Wyatt Bowles (So.)
RT	78	Jacob South (So.)	**73**	**Kyler Hack (Jr.)**
TE	**88**	**Carson Terrell (Sr.)**	86	Bryce Mortenson (So.)
QB	3	Henry Colombi (Jr.)	6	Andrew Peasley (So.)
RB	20	Jaylen Warren (Sr.)	34	Elelyon Noa (Fr.)

DEFENSE (5) — Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**51**	**Justus Te'i (Sr.)**	91	James Hansen (So.)
NT	94	Caden Andersen (Sr.)	90	Ritisoni Fata (Sr.)
DE	95	Marcus Moore (Sr.)	97	Jake Pitcher (Sr.)
OLB	42	Nick Heninger (Sr.)	41	Elijah Shelton (So.)
MLB	**33**	**Kevin Meitzenheimer (Sr.)**	5	Cash Gilliam (Sr.)
MLB	38	Eric Munoz (Sr.)	98	AJ Vongphachanh (So.)
OLB	**3**	**Troy Lefeged Jr. (Sr.)**		Mata Hola (Fr.)
CB	14	Zahodri Jackson (Jr.)	2	Terin Adams (Sr.)
CB	**21**	**Andre Grayson (Jr.)**	7	Xavion Steele (Jr.)
S	**4**	**Shaq Bond (Sr.)**	23	Dominic Tatum (So.)
S	36	Jared Reed (So.)	25	Jarrod Green (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	59	Connor Coles (Jr.)	**KR**	11	Savon Scarver (Sr.)
P	63	Stephen Kotsanlee (Fr.)	**PR**	16	Jordan Nathan (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Henry Colombi, 29-20-221-1, 2 TDs
Rushing: Jaylen Warren, 112 att., 569 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Jordan Nathan, 56 rec., 581 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Troy Lefeged Jr., 104
Sacks: Nick Heninger, 5.0
Interceptions: Shaq Bond, 3

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Gary Andersen
Record at School: 33-30 (5 years)
Career Record: 63-67 (11 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Bodie Reeder
Defensive Coordinators: Stacy Collins, Frank Maile
Logan, UT • Maverik Stadium (25,513)

Utah State Athletics

WYOMING Cowboys

National Forecast: **64** · MW Mountain Prediction: **2** · Projected Record: **8-4, 6-2 MW**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Weber State
Sept.	12	at Louisiana
Sept.	19	Utah
Sept.	26	at Ball State
Oct.	10	at UNLV
Oct.	17	San Diego State
Oct.	24	Air Force
Oct.	31	at Colorado State
Nov.	7	Utah State
Nov.	14	at Nevada
Nov.	21	Boise State
Nov.	28	at New Mexico

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5, 4-4 MW

Aug.	31	Missouri	W	37-31
Sept.	7	at Texas State	W	23-14
Sept.	14	Idaho	W	21-16
Sept.	21	at Tulsa	L	21-24
Sept.	29	UNLV	W	53-17
Oct.	12	at San Diego State	L	22-26
Oct.	19	New Mexico	W	23-10
Oct.	26	Nevada	W	31-3
Nov.	9	at Boise State (ot)	L	17-20
Nov.	16	at Utah State	L	21-26
Nov.	22	Colorado State	W	17-7
Nov.	30	at Air Force	L	6-20
Dec.	31	vs. Georgia State #	W	38-17

#Arizona Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Xavier Carter, CB, Manvel, TX
2. Colin O'Brien, TE, Mission Viejo, CA*
3. Nofoafia Tulafono, OG, Hesperia, CA
4. Gavin Meyer, DE, Franklin, WI
5. Keshaun Taylor, WR, Denver, CO
6. Joshua Cobbs, WR, San Antonio, TX
7. Tyrese Grant, ATH, Daingerfield, TX
8. Kohl Herbolsheimer, OG, Omaha, NE
9. Buck Coors, QB, Loveland, CO
10. Cameron Stone, CB, Angleton, TX

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MW	NATIONAL
Scoring	25.4 ppg	8	91
Rushing	214.8 ypg	2	23
Passing	136.2 ypg	11	123
Total	350.9 ypg	11	106
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	17.8 ppg	2	11
Rushing	107.1 ypg	3	11
Passing	256.7 ypg	10	105
Total	363.8 ypg	4	43
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
+5	+0.38	3	33

STAT CORNER

35.56%

Opponents scored 16 touchdowns in 45 trips inside the Wyoming red zone in 2019. That 35.56 percent TD rate allowed was best in the country.

OFFENSE Wyoming has two young and capable quarterbacks in sophomore Sean Chambers and redshirt freshman Levi Williams. Chambers suffered a season-ending knee injury in the eighth game but threw seven touchdowns and was the Cowboys' second-leading rusher with 567 yards and a team-best 10 TDs. Williams played in the final three games and started in the bowl victory over Georgia State.

Junior All-Mountain West running back Xazavian Valladay returns after rushing for 1,265 yards and six touchdowns in 2019. Senior graduate transfer Trey Smith (Louisville) was granted another year of eligibility after an ankle injury ended his season. Sophomore Titus Swen showed promise as a true freshman.

No returning wideout caught more than eight passes last season. Wyoming does have a pair of 6'7" tight ends in sophomore Jackson Marcotte and junior Nate Weinman.

All 10 offensive linemen on the bowl game two-deep return, including nine who started games last season. The group is anchored by junior center Keegan Cryder, a second-team All-MW pick in 2019.

DEFENSE A lot of production was lost, along with three assistant coaches who joined Nick Rolovich's staff at Washington State.

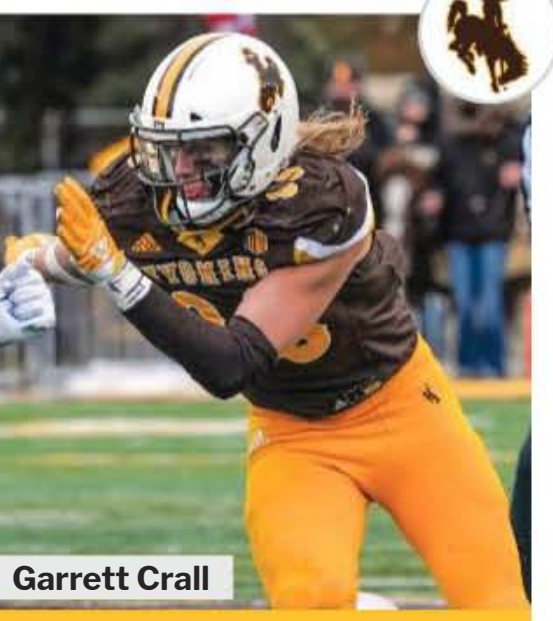
There is experience along the defensive line, as seven guys return who played in nine or more games last season, led by senior defensive end Garrett Crall (6.0 tackles for a loss, 4.5 sacks) and sophomore defensive end Solomon Byrd (9.5 TFLs, 6.5 sacks). Byrd earned freshman All-America honors from the Football Writers Association of America. Tackle Ravontae Holt is back after missing 2019 with an injury, and he could be the best lineman of the group.

Linebackers Logan Wilson and Cassh Maluia played in 102 games in their careers, and Wilson recorded more than 400 tackles, but both must be replaced. Junior Chad Muma steps in for Wilson in the middle, but he can also play outside. Junior Keyon Blankenbaker was fourth on the team with 57 tackles after moving from cornerback to nickel — a hybrid outside linebacker/defensive back.

Sophomore Rome Weber and seniors Esaias Gandy and Braden Smith will have bigger roles at both safety spots. Experience returns at cornerback in juniors Azizi Hearn and C.J. Coldon and sophomore Jordan Murry. Coldon played in only three games each of the last two seasons due to injuries.

SPECIALISTS Wyoming must find replacements at kicker, punter, holder and returner. Nick Null, a graduate transfer from Cornell, may handle placekicking. Tim Zaleski handled the punting duties in 2017, but a knee injury midway through 2018 was slow to heal, so he won't return.

FINAL ANALYSIS There were a lot of question marks prior to last season, but Wyoming recorded its fourth consecutive .500-or-better season, which hadn't happened since 1996-99. The running game should be a strength, and it needs to be to take pressure off the quarterback as weapons in the passing attack develop. Wyoming has ranked among the nation's best scoring and rushing defenses in recent years. If the Cowboys can play at a similar level and make the transition to a new defensive coordinator, they should be contenders in the Mountain Division and return to a bowl game.



Garrett Crall

"You know it's going to be a fight. Most of their defense is back, and they have a really solid running game. They could be a threat to win the conference."

— An opposing MW assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)				
WR	19	Ayden Eberhardt (Sr.)	16	Gunner Gentry (Jr.)
WR	8	Dontae Crow (Sr.)	11	Wyatt Wieland (So.)
LT	**78**	**Alonzo Velazquez (Sr.)**	77	Gavin Dunayski (Jr.)
LG	65	Zach Watts (So.)	55	Gavin Rush (Jr.)
C	**73**	**Keegan Cryder (Jr.)**	57	Patrick Arnold (Jr.)
RG	69	Eric Abojei (Jr.)	**79**	**Logan Harris (Sr.)**
RT	**62**	**Rudy Stofer (Jr.)**	75	Frank Crum (So.)
TE	84	Nate Weinman (Jr.)	82	Jackson Marcotte (So.)
QB	**12**	**Sean Chambers (So.)**	15	Levi Williams (Fr.)
RB	**6**	**Xazavian Valladay (Jr.)**	7	Trey Smith (Sr.)
FB	35	Skyler Miller (Sr.)	34	Jeff Burroughs (Sr.)

DEFENSE (5)			Returning Starters in Bold	
DE	**88**	**Garrett Crall (Sr.)**	29	Leevi Lafaele (So.)
NT	**97**	**Mario Mora (So.)**	94	Cole Godbout (So.)
DT	98	Ravontae Holt (Jr.)	44	Victor Jones (Jr.)
DE	51	Solomon Byrd (So.)	41	Davon Wells-Ross (Jr.)
MLB	48	Chad Muma (Jr.)	34	Charles Hicks (So.)
OLB	28	Easton Gibbs (Fr.)	25	Isaiah Abdullah (Fr.)
CB	**20**	**Azizi Hearn (Jr.)**	6	Jordan Murry (So.)
CB	21	C.J. Coldon (Jr.)	4	Caleb Roberson (Fr.)
NB	**18**	**Keyon Blankenbaker (Jr.)**	7	Keonte Glinton (Fr.)
SS	5	Esaias Gandy (Sr.)	14	Miles Williams (Jr.)
FS	**8**	**Rome Weber (So.)**	26	Braden Smith (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	42	Luke Glassock (Fr.)	KR	8	Dontae Crow (Sr.)
P	41	Tanner Shattuck (Fr.)	PR	8	Dontae Crow (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Sean Chambers, 121-52-915-3, 7 TDs
Rushing: Xazavian Valladay, 247 att., 1,265 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Xazavian Valladay, 11 rec., 211 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Keyon Blankenbaker, 57
Sacks: Solomon Byrd, 6.5
Interceptions: 3 tied with 1

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Craig Bohl
Record at School: 36-40 (6 years)
Career Record: 140-72 (17 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Brent Vigen
Defensive Coordinator: Jay Sawvel
Laramie, WY • War Memorial Stadium (29,181)

Troy Babbitt/Wyoming Athletics

FRESNO STATE Bulldogs

National Forecast: **104** · MW West Prediction: **4** · Projected Record: **5-7, 3-5 MW**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Idaho State
Sept.	12	at Colorado
Sept.	26	Air Force
Oct.	3	at Colorado State
Oct.	10	at Texas A&M
Oct.	17	New Mexico State
Oct.	24	at Nevada
Oct.	31	Hawaii
Nov.	7	at UNLV
Nov.	14	at Utah State
Nov.	21	San Diego State
Nov.	28	San Jose State

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 4-8, 2-6 MW

Aug.	31	at USC	L	23-31
Sept.	7	Minnesota (ot)	L	35-38
Sept.	21	Sacramento State	W	34-20
Sept.	28	at New Mexico State	W	30-17
Oct.	12	at Air Force	L	24-43
Oct.	18	UNLV	W	56-27
Oct.	26	Colorado State	L	31-41
Nov.	2	at Hawaii	W	41-38
Nov.	9	Utah State	L	35-37
Nov.	15	at San Diego State	L	7-17
Nov.	23	Nevada	L	28-35
Nov.	30	at San Jose State	L	16-17

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jamir Shepard, WR, Palo Alto, CA
2. Joseph Church, OT, Upland, CA
3. Julian Polendo, OT, Palm Springs, CA
4. Rory Hanson, TE, Tracy, CA*
5. Matt Lowe, TE, Phelan, CA
6. Kamron Forest, CB, San Bernardino, CA
7. Da'Marcus Johnson, DE, Sacramento, CA*
8. CJ Jones, CB, Clovis, CA
9. Malik Sherrod, ATH, Oxnard, CA
10. Dupree Williams, S, Compton, CA

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MW	NATIONAL
Scoring	30.0 ppg	5	58
Rushing	159.3 ypg	6	67
Passing	226.8 ypg	7	70
Total	386.0 ypg	8	85
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	30.1 ppg	5	82
Rushing	160.6 ypg	6	71
Passing	259.2 ypg	11	107
Total	419.8 ypg	7	88
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
+4	+0.33	4	38

STAT CORNER

+0.203

Fresno State allowed 0.411 points per snap last season, an increase of 0.203 points per play that was the second-biggest jump in FBS.

OFFENSE When Fresno State gets near the end zone, opposing defenses would be wise to key on Ronnie Rivers. The senior tailback led the Mountain West with 16 touchdowns in 2019, 13 rushing and three receiving, to go with 1,367 all-purpose yards. Jevon Bigelow, a bigger back at 6'1" and 218 pounds, and Jordan Mims provide good depth.

Jake Haener is the presumed front-runner at quarterback after the Washington transfer sat out last season per NCAA rules. Last year's No. 2, Ben Wooldridge, is Haener's main competition. Neither has made a college start.

First-year head coach Kalen DeBoer loves using multiple tight ends, but no unit was hit harder by graduation. At receiver, the Bulldogs return one steady possession type (Zane Pope) and several who've flashed when healthy. Of this group, Jalen Cropper shows the most big-play potential. Keric Wheatfall and Emoryie Edwards are the other names to watch.

The line sustained so many injuries last fall that nine players who received significant playing time return, including four starters.

DEFENSE The Bulldogs took a big step back on defense in 2019. That's probably why DeBoer brought William Inge with him from Indiana, gave Inge the go-ahead to install a 4-2-5 scheme and replaced all but one position coach.

Middle linebacker Justin Rice is coming off an All-MW campaign in which he recorded 112 total tackles, eight pass breakups, four forced fumbles and two interceptions. Fellow senior Arron Mosby seems a good bet to take over the "Husky" position, a hybrid strong side linebacker/safety.

The line was a liability last year. Tackle Kevin Atkins has shown gradual improvement but not the breakout success some expected early in his career. Both projected starting ends, Kwami Jones and Isaiah Johnson, are returning from injuries.

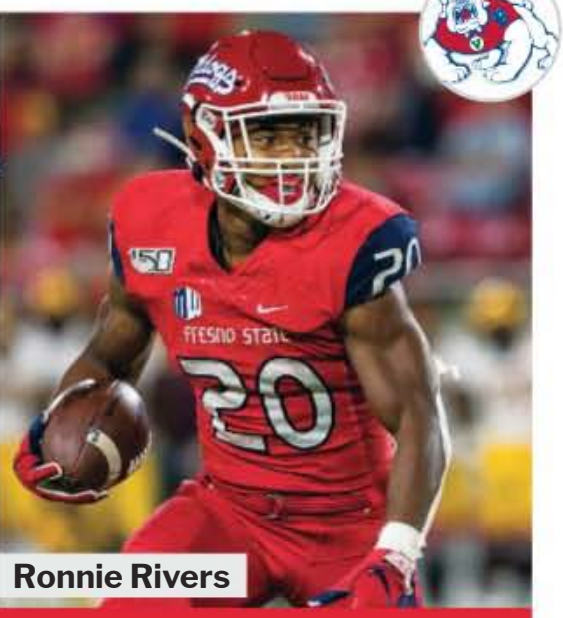
Chris Gaston and Wylan Free (shifting back from free safety) have the makings of a pretty good starting cornerback duo. But like most position groups in this unit, there isn't much depth.

SPECIALISTS Cesar Silva and Asa Fuller have both booted game-winning field goals during their careers, but consistency has been lacking. For the first time since 2015, someone other than Blake Cusick will punt. Speaking of a long time, Fresno State hasn't returned a kickoff for a TD since 2008. If anyone can end that drought, it might be Cropper.

FINAL ANALYSIS Last season, the Bulldogs stumbled to a 4–8 record and then lost coach Jeff Tedford to an unexpected retirement. DeBoer took the reins just in time for the early signing period. Tedford's offensive coordinator from 2017-18 when Fresno State went a combined 22–6, DeBoer returns to the San Joaquin Valley following a successful 2019 season as OC at Indiana.

DeBoer's hiring allows the program to maintain some continuity. He retained offensive coordinator Ryan Grubb, a close friend and associate, and plans to keep the scheme and terminology from previous seasons. The bigger changes will be on defense.

The Bulldogs were probably hurt more than most teams by the cancellation of spring practice as neither Haener nor Wooldridge have much game experience. On the bright side, the injury-riddled offensive line might finally be healthy when camp begins.



Ronnie Rivers

"If the offensive line can stay healthy, they're going to run a really effective, creative offense. They won't miss a beat unless they have some defensive issues."

— An opposing MW assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (5)				
WR	5	Jalen Cropper (So.)	4	Emoryie Edwards (So.)
WR	27	Zane Pope (Jr.)	11	Josh Kelly (Fr.)
WR	1	Keric Wheatfall (Sr.)	8	Chris Coleman (Jr.)
LT	**72**	**Dontae Bull (Jr.)**	75	Alex Akingbulu (Sr.)
LG	73	Elijah Carson (Fr.)	58	Dante Adkins Jr. (Fr.)
C	**59**	**Matt Smith (Sr.)**	50	Tyrone Sampson Jr. (So.)
RG	**66**	**Quireo Woodley (Jr.)**	54	Bula Schmidt (So.)
RT	**65**	**Syrus Tuitele (Sr.)**	70	Tim Anderson (Jr.)
TE	80	Juan Rodriguez (Sr.)	87	Raymond Pauwels Jr. (Jr.)
QB	7	Jake Haener (Jr.)	6	Ben Wooldridge (So.)
RB	**20**	**Ronnie Rivers (Sr.)**	28	Jevon Bigelow (So.)
DEFENSE (5)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	33	Kwami Jones (Sr.)	44	Leevel Tatum III (Sr.)
DT	**90**	**Kevin Atkins (Sr.)**	45	Kurtis Brown (Jr.)
DT	43	Alex Dumais (So.)	55	Leonard Payne Jr. (So.)
DE	**18**	**Isaiah Johnson (Jr.)**	51	Alex Cruz (Jr.)
LB	**10**	**Justin Rice (Sr.)**	35	Malachi Langley (Fr.)
LB	3	Jacob Hollins (So.)	6	Levelle Bailey (So.)
HUS	**15**	**Arron Mosby (Sr.)**	16	Rian Fields (So.)
CB	2	Chris Gaston (Jr.)	26	Randy Jordan (So.)
CB	**4**	**Wylan Free (Jr.)**	23	Deshawn Ruffin (Fr.)
SS	8	Deven Jarvis (Fr.)	22	Steven Comstock (So.)
FS	32	Evan Williams (So.)	7	Reggie Strong (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	28	Cesar Silva (Sr.)	**KR**	5	Jalen Cropper (So.)
P	45	Carson King (So.)	**PR**	20	Ronnie Rivers (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Ben Wooldridge, 4-6-30-0, 1 TD
Rushing: Ronnie Rivers, 177 att., 899 yds., 13 TDs
Receiving: Zane Pope, 47 rec., 525 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Justin Rice, 112
Sacks: Kevin Atkins, 5.0
Interceptions: 3 tied with 2

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Kalen DeBoer
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 67-3 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Ryan Grubb
Defensive Coordinator: William Inge
Fresno, CA • Bulldog Stadium (40,727)

Keith Kountz/Fresno State Athletics

HAWAII Rainbow Warriors

National Forecast: **92** · MW West Prediction: **3** · Projected Record: **6-7, 4-4 MW**

2020 SCHEDULE

Aug.	29	at Arizona
Sept.	5	UCLA
Sept.	12	Fordham
Sept.	19	at Oregon
Oct.	3	Nevada
Oct.	10	New Mexico State
Oct.	17	at Air Force
Oct.	24	Boise State
Oct.	31	at Fresno State
Nov.	7	New Mexico
Nov.	14	UNLV
Nov.	21	at San Jose State
Nov.	28	at San Diego State

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 10-5, 5-3 MW

Aug.	24	Arizona	W	45-38
Sept.	7	Oregon State	W	31-28
Sept.	14	at Washington	L	20-52
Sept.	21	Central Arkansas	W	35-16
Sept.	28	at Nevada	W	54-3
Oct.	12	at Boise State	L	37-59
Oct.	19	Air Force	L	26-56
Oct.	26	at New Mexico	W	45-31
Nov.	2	Fresno State	L	38-41
Nov.	9	San Jose State	W	42-40
Nov.	16	at UNLV	W	21-7
Nov.	23	San Diego State	W	14-11
Nov.	30	Army	W	52-31
Dec.	7	at Boise State #	L	10-31
Dec.	24	BYU %	W	38-34

#MW Championship %Hawaii Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Quin Bright, ATH, Cedar Hill, TX
2. Kemon Smith, DT, Slidell, LA*
3. Micah Soliai Howlett, OG, Kahuku, HI
4. Daveon Hunter, RB, Chandler, AZ
5. Jake Tuatagaloa, OG, Mililani, HI
6. Ezra Evaimalo, LB, Honolulu, HI
7. Maurice Ta'ala, DT, Pago Pago, AS
8. Tamatoa Mokiao-Atimalala, WR, Ewa Beach, HI
9. Riley Wilson, WR, Plano, TX
10. Kilohana Haasenritter, WR, Hilo, HI

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MW	NATIONAL
Scoring	33.9 ppg	3	24
Rushing	133.9 ypg	9	100
Passing	337.1 ypg	2	5
Total	471.0 ypg	1	13
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	31.9 ppg	8	98
Rushing	202.8 ypg	11	111
Passing	228.5 ypg	5	67
Total	431.3 ypg	8	96
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
-11	-0.73	10	117

STAT CORNER

42.92

The Rainbow Warriors averaged 42.92 yards per offensive possession, second best among G5 teams.

OFFENSE Todd Graham made a name for himself as a head coach with fast-paced offenses at Rice, Tulsa, Pittsburgh and Arizona State. Good thing, because the first year of his job at Hawaii is very much a hurry-up endeavor without the benefit of a spring practice after replacing Nick Rolovich, who went to Washington State.

The Rainbow Warriors need to replace record-setting quarterback Cole McDonald, who left with a season of eligibility remaining, as well as three of his top four receivers from a team that ranked fifth in the Football Bowl Subdivision in passing offense (337.1 yards per game) and produced an average of 33.9 points per game.

Redshirt sophomore Chevan Cordeiro is the heir apparent at quarterback having started three games and coming off the bench twice to rally Hawaii to fourth-quarter victories. Junior Justin Uahinui, who threw three passes in 2019, is the only other quarterback with Division I game experience.

Miles Reed, who ran for 908 yards and eight TDs last season, and power-running Hekili Keliiliki are the only returning running backs to have seen action. Coaches are high on the potential of incoming freshman Daveon Hunter from Chandler, Ariz.

Jared Smart is the most accomplished of the receivers with 87 catches for 1,129 yards in 2019. Junior college transfer Zion Bowens has big-play potential and is also a threat as a return specialist. A return from injury by Kumoku Noa would be a major boost.

The Rainbow Warriors are blessed with a veteran offensive line where four starters return, including three — Ilm Manning, Taaga Tuulima and Solo Vaipulu — who have each started 20 games or more.

DEFENSE For all the traditional firepower on offense at Hawaii, Graham says the most pressing issues — "the ones that are going to determine our fate" — are defense and overall discipline as reflected by the high number of penalties. Those are two areas where the Rainbow Warriors have ranked in the bottom 20 percent in the FBS five of the past seven years.

Safety Eugene Ford, cornerback Cortez Davis and nickel back Kai Kaneshiro, who had three interceptions, lead the secondary.

Nose tackle Blessman Ta'ala is a force in the middle, where he was an honorable mention all-conference selection. Jeremiah Pritchard anchors the linebacking corps.

SPECIALISTS If he is granted immediate eligibility, Oregon transfer Adam Stack could corner the market on the kicking jobs. With the Ducks, he was the top punter in 2017 and placekicker in 2018. Senior punter Stan Gaudion and incoming freshman Matt Shipley, who can handle both chores, figure to be his competition.

FINAL ANALYSIS For the first time in his head-coaching career, Graham takes on an assignment that does not involve turning around a team's sagging fortunes. But while the Rainbow Warriors are coming off back-to-back bowl appearances for the first time since 2008, there is still much work to be done and little time in which to do it if they are to continue their winning ways. With three Pac-12 opponents in the first four games, the Rainbow Warriors will be hard-pressed to pick right up where they left off from their best finish in nine years.

Chevan Cordeiro

"Todd (Graham) has a really good grasp on offensive play-calling, so they're going to score points pretty quickly. They're always going to struggle on defense."

— An opposing MW assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)				
WR	**23**	**Jared Smart (Sr.)**	80	Mekel Ealy (Fr.)
WR	85	Lincoln Victor (So.)	87	Robert Funkhouser (So.)
WR	84	Nick Mardner (So.)	14	James Phillips (So.)
WR	4	Kumoku Noa (Sr.)		Zion Bowens (Jr.)
LT	**75**	**Ilm Manning (Jr.)**	78	Ernest Moore (Sr.)
LG	76	Michael Eletise (Sr.)	70	Arasi Mose (Fr.)
C	**63**	**Taaga Tuulima (Sr.)**	72	Kohl Levao (Sr.)
RG	**52**	**Solo Vaipulu (Jr.)**	67	Bubba Wa'a (Fr.)
RT	**74**	**Gene Pryor (Sr.)**	58	Joey Nu'uanu-Kuhi'iki (Sr.)
QB	12	Chevan Cordeiro (So.)	11	Justin Uahinui (Jr.)
RB	**26**	**Miles Reed (Jr.)**	44	Hekili Keliiliki (Jr.)
DEFENSE (6)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	48	Derek Thomas (Sr.)	50	Justus Tavai (Jr.)
NT	**43**	**Mason Vega (Sr.)**	30	Kamuela Borden (So.)
DT	**55**	**Blessman Ta'ala (Jr.)**	59	Andrew Choi (So.)
DE	99	Jonah Laulu (So.)	92	DJuan Matthews (Sr.)
LB	15	Paul Scott (Jr.)	53	Darius Muasau (So.)
LB	**2**	**Jeremiah Pritchard (Sr.)**	1	Penei Pavihi (Jr.)
CB	**18**	**Cortez Davis (Sr.)**	29	Donovan Dalton (Jr.)
CB	20	Zach Wilson (Sr.)	23	Akil Francisco (Jr.)
NB	24	Kai Kaneshiro (So.)	34	James Green III (So.)
S	**5**	**Khoury Bethley (Jr.)**		Cameron Lockridge (So.)
S	**8**	**Eugene Ford (Sr.)**		Jalen Perdue (Jr.)
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K		Adam Stack (Jr.)	**KR** 23	Jared Smart (Sr.)
P	9	Stan Gaudion (Sr.)	**PR** 85	Lincoln Victor (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Chevan Cordeiro, 120-69-907-3, 8 TDs
Rushing: Miles Reed, 174 att., 908 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Jared Smart, 87 rec., 1,129 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Khoury Bethley, 83
Sacks: Andrew Choi, Jonah Laulu, 2.5
Interceptions: Kai Kaneshiro, 3

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Todd Graham
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 95-61 (12 years)
Offensive Coordinators: Tony Hull, G.J. Kinne
Defensive Coordinators: Victor Santa Cruz, Jacob Yoro
Honolulu, HI • Aloha Stadium (50,000)

Matt Burn/University of Hawai'i

NEVADA Wolf Pack

National Forecast: **82** · MW West Prediction: **1** · Projected Record: **7-6, 5-3 MW**

2020 SCHEDULE

Aug.	29	UC Davis
Sept.	5	at Arkansas
Sept.	12	UTEP
Sept.	19	at USF
Sept.	26	San Diego State
Oct.	3	at Hawaii
Oct.	17	at New Mexico
Oct.	24	Fresno State
Oct.	31	Utah State
Nov.	7	at San Jose State
Nov.	14	Wyoming
Nov.	28	at UNLV

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 7-6, 4-4 MW

Aug.	30	Purdue	W	34-31
Sept.	7	at Oregon	L	6-77
Sept.	14	Weber State	W	19-13
Sept.	21	at UTEP	W	37-21
Sept.	28	Hawaii	L	3-54
Oct.	12	San Jose State	W	41-38
Oct.	19	at Utah State	L	10-36
Oct.	26	at Wyoming	L	3-31
Nov.	2	New Mexico	W	21-10
Nov.	9	at San Diego State	W	17-13
Nov.	23	at Fresno State	W	35-28
Nov.	30	UNLV (ot)	L	30-33
Jan.	3	vs. Ohio #	L	21-30

#Potato Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Isaac Jernagin, ATH, Bakersfield, CA
2. Devin Gunter, ATH, Missouri City, TX
3. Grant Starck, OT, Springfield, OR
4. Marquese Allen-Patmon, ATH, San Diego, CA
5. Frank Poso, OT, San Jose, CA
6. Avery Morrow, RB, Seattle, WA
7. Tongiaki Mateialona, S, Compton, CA
8. Jacob Gardner, OT, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
9. Tory Horton, ATH, Fresno, CA
10. RJ Taylor, OT, Yucaipa, CA

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MW	NATIONAL
Scoring	21.3 ppg	11	111
Rushing	115.6 ypg	11	122
Passing	249.7 ypg	6	51
Total	365.3 ypg	10	101
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	31.9 ppg	10	100
Rushing	149.2 ypg	5	57
Passing	250.8 ypg	8	99
Total	400.1 ypg	6	75
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
-5	-0.38	9	96

STAT CORNER

44.68%

The Wolf Pack scored TDs in just 21 of 47 red zone opportunities, a 44.68 percent rate that was second worst in the Mountain West.

OFFENSE Nevada head coach Jay Norvell didn't quite know what he had in freshman quarterback Carson Strong. The talented signal caller opened his career by engineering a wild comeback over Purdue. Then, nagged with injuries and inconsistency, Strong was forced to the bench. Once reinstated midseason, Strong (2,335 yards, 11 TDs, seven INTs) played admirably. Now it appears that Nevada has the next in its line of four-year starting quarterbacks, a list that includes Colin Kaepernick. With Strong among nine returning starters, including the most talented group of skill position players in the Mountain West, Nevada's hybrid Air Raid offense is poised for a breakthrough.

Senior Elijah Cooks (926 yards, eight TDs), Nevada's most consistent receiving threat, and junior Romeo Doubs (649 yards, four TDs), who was spectacular before an injury cut his season short, make up the top receiving duo in the conference. Slot Melquan Stovall enjoyed a breakout in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl. Keep an eye on freshman Isaac Jernagin, a jewel of the Pack's recruiting class.

With dynamic Toa Taua (807 yards, six TDs) and bruising Devonte Lee (302, seven TDs), Nevada is loaded in its backfield. But after the team averaged just 3.4 yards per rushing attempt in 2019, Nevada's offensive line must improve. All five starters and most of the depth return, but the unit struggled mightily in 2019. Senior tackles Miles Beach and Nate Brown will anchor the unit.

DEFENSE Norvell cut ties with coordinator Jeff Casteel and two other defensive coaches, and the cancellation of spring ball left Nevada waiting for what new coordinator Brian Ward, formerly of Syracuse, has in store. Ward will likely shift from the 3-3-5 stack to a multiple front in 2020.

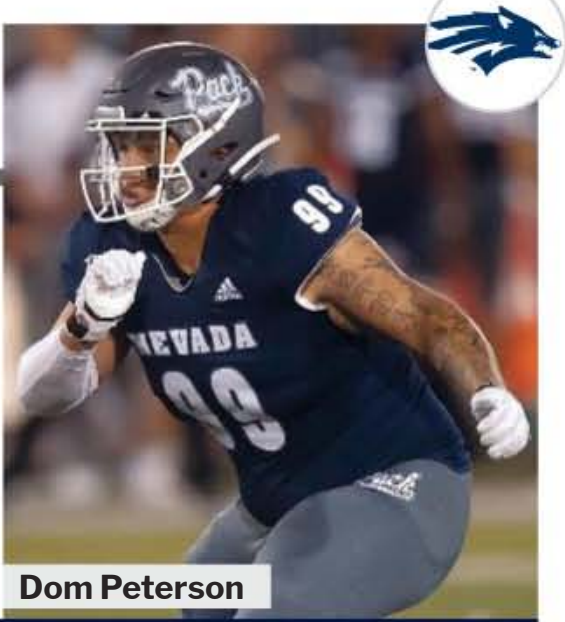
Ward inherits a star in end Dom Peterson, a high-motor junior fresh off a first-team All-MW season. Seniors Chris Green (NT) and Sam Hammond (DE) showed flashes in 2019, but some youthful depth up front needs to be developed.

Senior Lawson Hall, an all-conference-caliber linebacker, broke out as a junior. He will lead a corps that includes juniors Lamin Touray and James Fotofili and sophomore Giovanni Miranda.

The quiet strength of the defense is the back end, which lost star corner Daniel Brown but returns every other player who saw significant action. That includes senior corner EJ Muhammad, who received an injury waiver from the NCAA to play another season, and junior safety Tyson Williams, who broke out as a sophomore.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Brandon Talton (21-of-25 FGs) hit two game-winners and earned second-team all-conference honors as a freshman. Eric Fellenzer will battle with incoming frosh Charlie Pollock at punter. Nevada needs more explosiveness from its returners, with Doubs, Stovall, Taua and possibly Jernagin all factoring in the return game.

FINAL ANALYSIS Confidence is understandably high in Reno. With spring practices wiped out, Nevada's 14 returning starters should be a significant early advantage. And the Wolf Pack's conference schedule is favorable, devoid of Boise State and with their toughest league opponents at home. Put it together, and Nevada is poised to contend for its first division title.



Dom Peterson

"This could be their big breakout year. They return a ton on offense, they're pretty much set at every skill position and they have a talented quarterback."

— An opposing MW assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (9)

WR	1	Melquan Stovall (So.)	82	Isaac Jernagin (Fr.)
WR	**7**	**Romeo Doubs (Jr.)**	17	Justin Lockhart (So.)
WR	**4**	**Elijah Cooks (Sr.)**	19	Cole Turner (Jr.)
LT	**72**	**Miles Beach (Sr.)**	69	Trey Price (Jr.)
LG	**67**	**Gray Davis (Jr.)**	54	Jermaine Ledbetter (Sr.)
C	55	Tyler Orsini (Sr.)	**70**	**Nathan Edwards (Sr.)**
RG	**65**	**Aaron Frost (Jr.)**	79	Moses Landis (Jr.)
RT	**76**	**Nate Brown (Sr.)**	52	Cole Watts (Fr.)
TE	31	Reagan Roberson (Sr.)	9	Crishaun Lappin (Jr.)
QB	**12**	**Carson Strong (So.)**		Nate Cox (Jr.)
RB	**35**	**Toa Taua (Jr.)**	2	Devonte Lee (Jr.)

DEFENSE (5) — Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**99**	**Dom Peterson (Jr.)**	95	Tristan Nichols (Sr.)
NT	54	Chris Green (Sr.)	53	Zak Mahannah (Sr.)
DE	98	Sam Hammond (Sr.)	47	Kameron Toomer (Sr.)
LB	50	Lamin Touray (Jr.)	34	Josiah Bradley (So.)
LB	**30**	**Lawson Hall (Sr.)**	45	Trevor Price (Jr.)
LB	17	James Fotofili (Jr.)	32	Giovanni Miranda (So.)
CB	1	Berdale Robins (Sr.)	15	Jaden Dedman (So.)
CB	**4**	**EJ Muhammad (Sr.)**	22	Jayce Godley (So.)
S	13	Jordan Lee (Jr.)	12	Mar'Quette Jackson (Sr.)
S	**28**	**Austin Arnold (Sr.)**	33	JoJuan Claiborne (Jr.)
S	**6**	**Tyson Williams (Jr.)**	29	Isaiah Hamilton (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	43	Brandon Talton (So.)	**KR**	7	Romeo Doubs (Jr.)
P	46	Eric Fellenzer (So.)	**PR**	1	Melquan Stovall (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Carson Strong, 374-237-2,335-7, 11 TDs
Rushing: Toa Taua, 196 att., 807 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Elijah Cooks, 76 rec., 926 yds., 8 TDs
Tackles: Tyson Williams, 85
Sacks: Dom Peterson, 9.0
Interceptions: Lawson Hall, Berdale Robins, 2

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Jay Norvell
Record at School: 18-20 (3 years)
Career Record: 18-20 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Matt Mumme
Defensive Coordinator: Brian Ward
Reno, NV • Mackay Stadium (30,000)

Nevada Athletics

SAN DIEGO STATE Aztecs

National Forecast: **83** · MW West Prediction: **2** · Projected Record: **7-5, 5-3 MW**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Sacramento State
Sept.	12	at Toledo
Sept.	19	UCLA
Sept.	26	at Nevada
Oct.	3	UNLV
Oct.	10	at Utah State
Oct.	17	at Wyoming
Oct.	24	San Jose State
Nov.	7	Colorado State
Nov.	14	at BYU
Nov.	21	at Fresno State
Nov.	28	Hawaii

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 10-3, 5-3 MW

Aug.	31	Weber State	W	6-0
Sept.	7	at UCLA	W	23-14
Sept.	15	at New Mexico State	W	31-10
Sept.	21	Utah State	L	17-23
Oct.	5	at Colorado State	W	24-10
Oct.	12	Wyoming	W	26-22
Oct.	19	at San Jose State	W	27-17
Oct.	26	at UNLV	W	20-17
Nov.	9	Nevada	L	13-17
Nov.	15	Fresno State	W	17-7
Nov.	23	at Hawaii	L	11-14
Nov.	30	BYU	W	13-3
Dec.	21	vs. Central Mich. #	W	48-11

#New Mexico Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Joey Wright, OT, Reno, NV
2. Kobah Fuamatu, LB, Santa Ana, CA
3. Aidan Finney, OT, Chico, CA
4. Vai Kaho, LB, Reno, NV
5. Darrell Masaniai, LB, Honolulu, HI
6. Jaylon Armstead, RB, Gardena, CA
7. Dezjhon Malone, CB, Fresno, CA
8. Cassius Savage, CB, Anaheim, CA
9. Jay Rudolph, TE, Scottsdale, AZ
10. Brody Hughes, S, Temecula, CA

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MW	NATIONAL
Scoring	21.2 ppg	12	112
Rushing	140.5 ypg	8	94
Passing	202.6 ypg	9	92
Total	343.2 ypg	12	110
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	12.7 ppg	1	2
Rushing	75.4 ypg	1	2
Passing	212.4 ypg	3	44
Total	287.8 ypg	1	5
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
+19	+1.46	1	2

STAT CORNER

46.5%

The San Diego State defense forced a three-and-out 46.5 percent of the time in 2019, the second-best rate in the country to Clemson (46.6).

OFFENSE There is plenty of work to be done for a unit that scored more than 30 points just once prior to its bowl game and ranked 112th in the nation in scoring. New offensive coordinator Jeff Hecklinski welcomes back six starters as he tries to give the Aztecs enough punch to take full advantage of what should be a strong defense. Sophomore quarterback Carson Baker was the unquestioned QB1 after the six spring practices San Diego State managed to get in, and a graduate transfer could still be in the works before fall to give the position some depth. Baker went 19-for-24 for 172 yards and a touchdown in his lone significant action last season — a 13–3 win over BYU.

From 2010-17, San Diego State had at least one 1,200-yard rusher every season, but the position has dropped off the last two years. Speedy Jordan Byrd has a chance to restart the tradition, but his size (5'9", 170) may keep him from being a true workhorse. Nebraska transfer Greg Bell is a wild card who may have the most talent. Three quality pass catchers return in former walk-on Jesse Matthews, Kobe Smith and tight end Daniel Bellinger. The offensive line has three starters back, including William Dunkle, who dropped 30 pounds since he arrived as a freshman at 380 pounds. Center Dominic Gudino did not start in 2019 but has done so 14 times in his career.

DEFENSE Brady Hoke is moving from defensive line coach to head coach, but his influence will still be strong on the defensive side of the ball. Seven starters return from one of the top defenses in the nation, including five players who received some type of all-conference honors.

Two of the three defensive linemen who earned all-league honors are back. Sophomore Cameron Thomas was first-team All-MW, and he can move from DT to DE in the Aztecs' 3-3-5 scheme. Keshawn Banks also returns at defensive end as a second-team All-MW after he recorded nine QB hurries and 4.5 sacks. Jonah Tavai should also get significant time as a typical run-stuffing DT.

Linebacker is the worry spot now that Kyahva Tezino has departed. Outside backers Andrew Aleki and Caden McDonald are back, but neither is the playmaker Tezino was. The five-man secondary returns three starters and three all-league selections. Corner Darren Hall will lock down his side of the field, while Cedarious Barfield replaces All-American Luq Barcoo on the other side. Field warrior safety Tariq Thompson will start for the fourth straight year, while the position of boundary warrior safety will be shared by Trenton Thompson and Tayler Hawkins. Dwayne Johnson Jr. plays the Aztec safety, which is a linebacker/safety combo.

SPECIALISTS Sophomore Matt Araiza nailed 22-of-26 field goals last season, but he unfortunately missed one of his biggest in the final seconds at Hawaii in a 14–11 loss. Araiza is slated to handle punting duties as well, while the return game will be in the hands of veterans Byrd and Matthews.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Aztecs can return to the MW championship game for the first time since 2016 if the offense finds some playmakers. The transition to Hoke should be smooth, the defense could be the league's best and the Aztecs avoid Boise State and Air Force. An 11th straight bowl bid seems like a given.

Jordan Byrd

"They're going to have to break in a new quarterback, so it could be a step back. They also lost a lot of their playmakers on defense."

— An opposing MW assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**92**	**Kobe Smith (Jr.)**	96	Elijah Kothe (Jr.)
WR	**45**	**Jesse Matthews (So.)**	13	Isaiah Richardson (Jr.)
WR	81	Ethan Dedeaux (Jr.)	41	BJ Busbee (Jr.)
LT	**71**	**Kyle Spalding (Sr.)**	55	Joey Capra (Fr.)
LG	**76**	**Zachary Thomas (Sr.)**	64	Chris Martinez (Jr.)
C	56	Dominic Gudino (Sr.)	72	Alama Uluave (Jr.)
RG	**73**	**William Dunkle (So.)**	67	Kyle Trombley (Fr.)
RT	77	Jacob Capra (Sr.)	75	Desmond Bessent (Jr.)
TE	**88**	**Daniel Bellinger (Jr.)**	85	Nolan Givan (Sr.)
QB	3	Carson Baker (So.)	4	Jordon Brookshire (Jr.)
RB	15	Jordan Byrd (Jr.)	33	Greg Bell (Sr.)

DEFENSE (7) — Returning Starters in Bold

DE	58	Connor Mitchell (Jr.)	63	Daniel Okpoko (So.)
DT	**65**	**Cameron Thomas (So.)**	66	Jonah Tavai (Jr.)
DE	**2**	**Keshawn Banks (Jr.)**	52	Jalil Lecky (Sr.)
OLB	**54**	**Caden McDonald (Jr.)**	43	Seyddrick Lakalaka (Jr.)
MLB	47	Kaelin Himphill (Sr.)	46	Michael Shawcroft (So.)
OLB	**38**	**Andrew Aleki (Sr.)**	90	Jeffrey Blake (Fr.)
CB	35	Cedarious Barfield (So.)	37	TyRee Bracy (So.)
CB	**23**	**Darren Hall (Jr.)**	17	Eric Wilson (Sr.)
FW	**14**	**Tariq Thompson (Sr.)**	20	Rashad Scott (Jr.)
BW	18	Trenton Thompson (Sr.)	32	Tayler Hawkins (Sr.)
AZ	**36**	**Dwayne Johnson Jr. (Sr.)**	33	Patrick McMorris (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	2	Matt Araiza (So.)	**KR**	15	Jordan Byrd (Jr.)
P	2	Matt Araiza (So.)	**PR**	45	Jesse Matthews (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Carson Baker, 24-19-172-0, 1 TD
Rushing: Chance Bell, 89 att., 384 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Kobe Smith, 58 rec., 691 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Dwayne Johnson Jr., 92
Sacks: Cameron Thomas, 5.5
Interceptions: Tariq Thompson, 4

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Brady Hoke
Record at School: 13-12 (2 years)
Career Record: 78-72 (12+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jeff Hecklinski
Defensive Coordinator: Kurt Mattix
San Diego, CA • SDCCU Stadium (54,000)

Peter Brouillet

SAN JOSE STATE Spartans

National Forecast: **109** · MW West Prediction: **5** · Projected Record: **5-7, 3-5 MW**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at Central Michigan
Sept.	12	UC Davis
Sept.	19	at Penn State
Oct.	3	at Boise State
Oct.	10	Air Force
Oct.	17	UNLV
Oct.	24	at San Diego State
Oct.	31	at New Mexico
Nov.	7	Nevada
Nov.	14	Connecticut
Nov.	21	Hawaii
Nov.	28	at Fresno State

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 5-7, 2-6 MW

Aug.	29	Northern Colorado	W	35-18
Sept.	7	Tulsa	L	16-34
Sept.	21	at Arkansas	W	31-24
Sept.	28	at Air Force	L	24-41
Oct.	4	New Mexico	W	32-21
Oct.	12	at Nevada	L	38-41
Oct.	19	San Diego State	L	17-27
Oct.	26	at Army	W	34-29
Nov.	2	Boise State	L	42-52
Nov.	9	at Hawaii	L	40-42
Nov.	23	at UNLV	L	35-38
Nov.	30	Fresno State	W	17-16

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jay Kakiva, DT, Fresno, CA*
2. Mikale Greer, CB, Lawndale, CA
3. Jalen Apalit-Williams, S, Walnut Creek, CA
4. Soane Toia, DT, Simi Valley, CA
5. Shamar Garrett, RB, Concord, CA
6. Keydrell Lewis, OT, Charlotte, NC
7. Terence Loville, ATH, San Mateo, CA
8. Elijah Wood, LB, Stockton, CA
9. Malik Welch, CB, Torrance, CA*
10. Lamar Barrett, OT, Bartow, FL*

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MW	NATIONAL
Scoring	30.1 ppg	4	57
Rushing	89.4 ypg	12	125
Passing	338.0 ypg	1	4
Total	427.4 ypg	5	50
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	31.9 ppg	9	99
Rushing	232.1 ypg	12	125
Passing	211.7 ypg	2	43
Total	443.8 ypg	11	106
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
+10	+0.83	2	9

STAT CORNER

4.71%

San Jose State picked off passes at the nation's highest clip. The Spartans intercepted 16 of 340 pass attempts, an FBS-best 4.71 percent interception rate.

OFFENSE The big story on offense for the Spartans is who will replace Josh Love at quarterback. The senior put together a stellar 2019, earning Mountain West Offensive Player of the Year honors while leading the Spartans to a No. 4 national ranking in passing offense. Seven — yes, seven — quarterbacks auditioned during six spring practices. Nick Starkel, a graduate transfer who logged starts at Texas A&M and Arkansas, is a fairly mobile pro-style QB with a strong arm. Nick Nash, the No. 2 quarterback last season, logged San Jose State's longest run from scrimmage in 2019 (49 yards).

Whoever wins the job at QB has the Mountain West's best set of wide receivers to throw to. First-team All-MW Tre Walker is back after his 1,161-yard season, as are running mates Bailey Gaither (812 yards) and Isaiah Hamilton (718 yards). Andre Crump has shown promise and should factor into the receiver mix as well, and senior tight end Derrick Deese Jr. will be a pass-catching threat and has a shot at all-league honors.

The Spartans hope to spark their inconsistent rushing attack with freshman Shamar Garrett, the top back from California power De La Salle.

The offensive line has three starters back, led by left tackle Jack Snyder, All-MW honorable mention selection in 2019. The pass blocking was strong last season, as SJSU allowed just one sack every 36 pass attempts, but the running game has been spotty.

DEFENSE Points allowed dropped from 36.6 in 2018 (115th in the nation) to 31.9 in 2019 (99th), and with eight starters back, there is reason for optimism that this trend can continue.

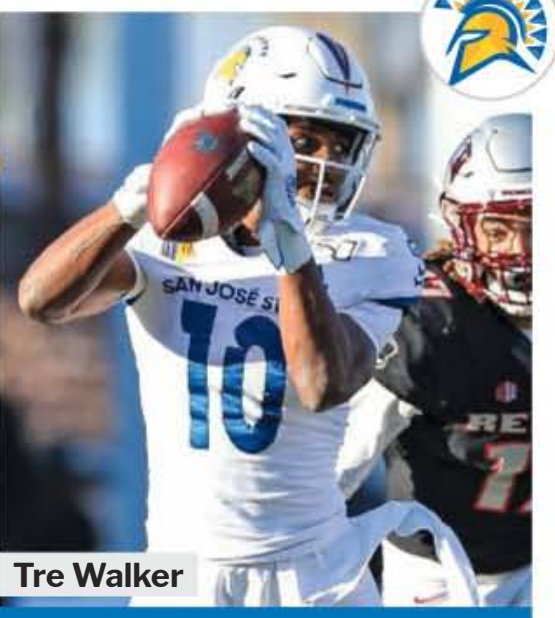
The strength and experience will be in the secondary. Both safeties — Jay Lenard and Tre Webb — will be starting for a third season, and cornerback Nehemiah Shelton returns after picking off three passes a year ago. Nickel back Bobby Brown II is taking over the other cornerback spot, and Charlie Bostic III has impressed and will be a factor in the secondary.

Three of four starting linebackers are back. Kyle Harmon was third on the team with 89 tackles, while Tysyn Parker and Rico Tolefree also return. UCLA transfer Rahyme Johnson is an interesting newcomer who should play on the inside.

Cade Hall and Viliami Fehoko return as starters along the defensive line, and there are two 300-plus-pound junior college nose tackles arriving in Noah Wright and Jay Kakiva. The Spartans gave up 232.1 yards per game on the ground (No. 125 nationally), so those two will be plugged in immediately.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Matt Mercurio returns after earning All-MW honorable mention recognition. He drilled 20-of-24 field goals, making 12 straight at one point with a long of 49. Chris Wood was the primary kickoff man, and he is competing with Elijah Fischer to be the punter.

FINAL ANALYSIS Coach Brent Brennan, who signed a three-year contract extension in December, welcomes back plenty of veteran talent from a team that narrowly missed a .500 season. If a quarterback emerges and the defense can continue its progress, the Spartans can challenge for a winning record, although five teams that won at least 10 games last season dot the schedule.



Tre Walker

"This has to be the year for them to get over the hump. They've done a really good job of keeping team chemistry during the rebuilding phase."

— An opposing MW assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)				
WR	**10**	**Tre Walker (Sr.)**	4	Andre Crump (So.)
WR	**9**	**Isaiah Hamilton (So.)**	1	Isaiah Holiness (So.)
WR	**84**	**Bailey Gaither (Sr.)**	13	Jermaine Braddock (So.)
LT	**55**	**Jack Snyder (Sr.)**	73	John Weiss (So.)
LG	62	Jesse Chamberlain (Jr.)	57	Trevor Robbins (Sr.)
C	**56**	**Kyle Hoppe (Sr.)**	71	Tyler Ostrom (So.)
RG	**70**	**Tyler Stevens (Jr.)**	74	Anthony Pardue (So.)
RT	64	Jaime Navarro (So.)	77	Scott Breslin (Jr.)
TE	87	Derrick Deese Jr. (Sr.)	81	Billy Humphreys (Sr.)
QB	17	Nick Starkel (Sr.)	16	Nick Nash (So.)
RB		Shamar Garrett (Fr.)	32	Kairee Robinson (So.)

DEFENSE (8)				Returning Starters in Bold
DE	**42**	**Viliami Fehoko (So.)**	95	Cam Alexander (Sr.)
NT	90	Lando Grey (Jr.)	97	Christian Johnson (Sr.)
DE	**92**	**Cade Hall (Jr.)**	91	E.J. Ane (Jr.)
OLB	2	Dion Leonard (Jr.)	35	Lorenzo Burkes (Fr.)
ILB	**45**	**Kyle Harmon (Jr.)**	12	Rahyme Johnson (Jr.)
ILB	**28**	**Tysyn Parker (Sr.)**	44	Jordan Cobbs (So.)
OLB	41	Hadari Darden (Sr.)	**16**	**Rico Tolefree (Jr.)**
CB	**23**	**Nehemiah Shelton (Jr.)**	25	Charlie Bostic III (Fr.)
CB	14	Bobby Brown II (Sr.)	7	Malik Welch (Jr.)
SS	**3**	**Tre Webb (Sr.)**	19	B.J. Johnson (Fr.)
FS	**27**	**Jay Lenard (Sr.)**	22	Tre Jenkins (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	39	Matt Mercurio (So.)	**KR**	1	Isaiah Holiness (So.)
P	48	Chris Wood (Jr.)	**PR**	84	Bailey Gaither (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Nick Nash, 17-12-133-0, 2 TDs
Rushing: Nick Nash, 40 att., 255 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Tre Walker, 79 rec., 1,161 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Jay Lenard, 95
Sacks: 3 tied with 2.0
Interceptions: Bobby Brown II, Nehemiah Shelton, 3

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Brent Brennan
Record at School: 8-29 (3 years)
Career Record: 8-29 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Kevin McGiven
Defensive Coordinator: Derrick Odum
San Jose, CA • CEFCU Stadium (30,456)

Christopher Trim/CSM via AP

UNLV Rebels

National Forecast: **118** · MW West Prediction: **6** · Projected Record: **2-10, 2-6 MW**

2020 SCHEDULE

Aug.	29	California
Sept.	5	Louisiana Tech
Sept.	12	Arizona State
Sept.	19	at Iowa State
Oct.	3	at San Diego State
Oct.	10	Wyoming
Oct.	17	at San Jose State
Oct.	24	Colorado State
Oct.	31	at Boise State
Nov.	7	Fresno State
Nov.	14	at Hawaii
Nov.	28	Nevada

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 4-8, 2-6 MW

Aug.	31	Southern Utah	W	56-23
Sept.	7	Arkansas State	L	17-43
Sept.	14	at Northwestern	L	14-30
Sept.	29	at Wyoming	L	17-53
Oct.	5	Boise State	L	13-38
Oct.	12	at Vanderbilt	W	34-10
Oct.	18	at Fresno State	L	27-56
Oct.	26	San Diego State	L	17-20
Nov.	2	at Colorado State	L	17-37
Nov.	16	Hawaii	L	7-21
Nov.	23	San Jose State	W	38-35
Nov.	30	at Nevada (ot)	W	33-30

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Brennon Scott, LB, Dallas, TX
2. LeShaun Bell, DE, Calabasas, CA
3. Alex Lines, TE, Gilbert, AZ
4. Alven Johnson, DT, Baton Rouge, LA
5. Kyle Williams, ATH, Santa Monica, CA
6. Doug Brumfield, QB, Gardena, CA
7. Jalen Dixon, DE, Seattle, WA
8. Kaleo Ballungay, TE, Tracy, CA
9. Dylan Downing, RB, Carmel, IN
10. Ricky Johnson, S, Houston, TX

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	MW	NATIONAL
Scoring	24.2 ppg	9	97
Rushing	168.2 ypg	4	58
Passing	206.2 ypg	8	88
Total	374.3 ypg	9	92
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	33.0 ppg	11	108
Rushing	186.2 ypg	8	92
Passing	256.2 ypg	9	104
Total	442.3 ypg	10	105
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**MW**	**NATIONAL**
-4	-0.33	8	93

STAT CORNER

3.05%

The UNLV defense managed just 13 sacks in 426 opportunities last season, which equates to a sack rate of 3.05 percent, the second worst in the country.

OFFENSE Sophomore Kenyon Oblad took over for the injured Armani Rogers and started eight games at quarterback for the Rebels. He finished with a bang, earning MW Offensive Player of the Week honors after setting a school record for completion percentage by a freshman in a game (16-of-22, 72.7 percent) while throwing for 229 yards and three touchdowns in a 33–30 season-ending victory at Nevada. But new head coach Marcus Arroyo says he will open up the job in the fall with sophomore Justin Rogers, a highly touted mid-year transfer from TCU, also in the mix.

Senior Charles Williams, a first-team All-Mountain West pick who joined Kirk Jones (1984), Ickey Woods (1987), and Dominique Dorsey (2004) as the only players in school history to notch conference regular-season rushing crowns, returns to lead a deep group of running backs after gaining 1,257 yards on 212 carries (5.9 ypc) and scoring 11 touchdowns.

The O-line returns three starters, including junior tackle Justice Oluwaseun and honorable mention All-MW guard Julio Garcia, but it must replace four-year starter Justin Polu and center Sid Acosta.

Explosive junior Randal Grimes, who began his career at USC, returns to lead a deep and experienced group of receivers that will also welcome back senior Brandon Presley, who led the team in receptions in 2018 but sat out 2019 with a torn ACL.

DEFENSE Only four starters return from a unit that allowed 33 points and 442.3 yards per game, including an average of 5.1 yards per carry.

Senior tackles Kolo Uasike and Tavis Malakius anchor an improving line, which is expected to get a boost at end from TCU transfer Adam Plant Jr., who starred on a prep national championship team at nearby Bishop Gorman High School.

The Rebels must replace arguably their three best defenders at linebacker in Rayshad Jackson, Gabe McCoy and Javin White, who combined for 210 tackles, including 30.5 for a loss. Seniors Farrell Hester II and Vic Viramontes both return at inside linebacker and will be joined by a pair of junior college transfers in Kue Olotoa and Prince Lollar Jr.

Senior safety Greg Francis is the lone returnee in a secondary that yielded an average of 256.2 passing yards per game.

SPECIALISTS Senior Daniel Gutierrez returns to handle placekicking duties after connecting on 11-of-14 field goals, including a key 50-yarder in the victory at Reno. Punter Hayes Hicken, who averaged 43.3 yards, graduated and will be replaced by Charlton Butt, a freshman from Victoria, Australia. Tyleek Collins is back after finishing fifth in the conference in kickoff returns with an average of 21.7 yards.

FINAL ANALYSIS Arroyo, who was offensive coordinator and assistant head coach for Pac-12 champion Oregon, became the 12th head coach in UNLV history in December. He inherits a program that has moved into the $34.8 million Fertitta Football Complex and will also play some home games at Allegiant Stadium, home of the NFL's Raiders. Arroyo put together a recruiting class that was ranked as high as No. 1 in the Mountain West by one service. However, he didn't get the benefit of spring practice and inherits one of the toughest schedules in school history. Getting to four wins in his debut season would be a major accomplishment.

Charles Williams

"The new staff is going to have to show up big. The first thing they need to do is find and build around a quarterback, and overhaul that defense."

— An opposing MW assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (9)

WR	**4**	**Randal Grimes (Jr.)**	**2**	**Mekhi Stevenson (Sr.)**
WR	**80**	**Brandon Presley (Sr.)**	82	Jacob Gasser (Sr.)
WR	84	Steve Jenkins (So.)	9	Tyleek Collins (Jr.)
LT	**72**	**Matt Brayton (Sr.)**	77	Jackson McCullough (Sr.)
LG	75	Jaron Caldwell (Sr.)	60	Amani Trigg-Wright (So.)
C	79	Leif Fautanu (Fr.)	63	Bryan Catchings (So.)
RG	**74**	**Julio Garcia (Sr.)**	61	Ryan Tantum (Jr.)
RT	**71**	**Justice Oluwaseun (Jr.)**	68	Eric Brown (So.)
TE	**45**	**Giovanni Fauolo Sr. (Sr.)**	11	Noah Bean (Jr.)
QB	**7**	**Kenyon Oblad (So.)**		Justin Rogers (So.)
RB	**8**	**Charles Williams (Sr.)**	36	Chad Magyar (Jr.)

DEFENSE (4) — Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**91**	**Nate Neal (Sr.)**		Adam Plant Jr. (So.)
NT	**94**	**Kolo Uasike (Sr.)**	20	Tavai Tuitasi (Jr.)
DT	55	Tavis Malakius (Sr.)	99	Chris Manoa (Jr.)
OLB	97	Jamal Holloway (Sr.)	92	Rodney Jones (Sr.)
MLB	**53**	**Farrell Hester II (Sr.)**		Prince Lollar Jr. (Jr.)
MLB	10	Vic Viramontes (Sr.)	43	Malakai Salu (So.)
OLB		Kue Olotoa (Jr.)	35	Jacoby Windmon (So.)
CB	28	Aaron Lewis (Sr.)	6	Tykenzie Daniels (Sr.)
CB	4	Alex Perry (Jr.)	21	Jamel Hamm (So.)
SS	**23**	**Greg Francis (Sr.)**	30	Austin Fiaseu (Fr.)
FS		Jeremiah Houston (Jr.)	3	Drew Tejchman (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	32	Daniel Gutierrez (Sr.)	**KR**	9	Tyleek Collins (Jr.)
P		Charlton Butt (Fr.)	**PR**	82	Jacob Gasser (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Kenyon Oblad, 308-167-2,081-9, 18 TDs
Rushing: Charles Williams, 212 att., 1,257 yds., 11 TDs
Receiving: Randal Grimes, 44 rec., 696 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Farrell Hester II, 70
Sacks: Bryce Jackson, 2.0
Interceptions: Jalen Graves, Kolo Uasike, 1

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Marcus Arroyo
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Glenn Thomas
Defensive Coordinator: Peter Hansen
Las Vegas, NV • Allegiant Stadium (65,000)

UNLV Athletics

Pac-12 *Preview*

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

NORTH DIVISION

1. *Oregon* **DUCKS** 11-2, 8-1 Pac-12
2. *California* **GOLDEN BEARS** 9-3, 6-3 Pac-12
3. *Washington* **HUSKIES** 8-4, 6-3 Pac-12
4. *Stanford* **CARDINAL** 6-6, 4-5 Pac-12
5. *Oregon State* **BEAVERS** 6-6, 4-5 Pac-12
6. *Washington State* **COUGARS** 6-6, 3-6 Pac-12

SOUTH DIVISION

1. *USC* **TROJANS** 9-4, 7-2 Pac-12
2. *Arizona State* **SUN DEVILS** 8-4, 5-4 Pac-12
3. *Utah* **UTES** 8-4, 5-4 Pac-12
4. *UCLA* **BRUINS** 6-6, 3-6 Pac-12
5. *Arizona* **WILDCATS** 4-8, 2-7 Pac-12
6. *Colorado* **BUFFALOES** 3-9, 1-8 Pac-12

Pac-12 Championship: **Oregon over USC**

Games to Watch

SEPT. 5
MICHIGAN AT WASHINGTON
Jimmy Lake's head-coaching debut comes at home. A W over the Wolverines would be a nice way to start..

SEPT. 5
USC VS. ALABAMA (ARLINGTON, TEXAS)
USC head coach Clay Helton could use a big win to start the season. Beating Alabama would fit the bill.

SEPT. 12
OHIO STATE AT OREGON
The Buckeyes are making a rare trip to Eugene as the Ducks look for their first-ever win vs. OSU (0–9).

SEPT. 26
ARIZONA STATE AT USC
This key Pac-12 South matchup comes early. The last two games between these two teams have been decided by five points or fewer.

OCT. 2
USC AT UTAH
USC handed the Utes their only regular-season conference loss in 2019. The Trojans can send a message with a win in Salt Lake City.

OCT. 3
WASHINGTON AT OREGON
Oregon has dominated the series this century, winning 15 of the 19 meetings since 2000.

Sewell: Oregon Athletics; Jackson: Peter Brouillet

2020 Unit Rankings

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
Arizona	7	9	9	7	12	7	9
Arizona State	2	11	8	8	6	6	3
California	3	6	11	9	5	3	5
Colorado	12	8	12	12	8	9	11
Oregon	8	1	3	1	1	2	1
Oregon State	10	4	7	11	9	4	7
Stanford	4	12	5	6	10	10	6
UCLA	5	10	10	10	7	12	8
USC	1	3	1	4	2	5	4
Utah	6	7	4	3	4	8	12
Washington	9	5	6	5	3	1	2
Washington State	11	2	2	2	11	11	10

Recruiting by School

1. Oregon
2. Washington
3. Stanford
4. Arizona State
5. Utah
6. UCLA
7. Colorado
8. California
9. Oregon State
10. USC
11. Washington State
12. Arizona

Drake Jackson

Penei Sewell

2020 Bowl Projections

Alamo Bowl: USC vs. Oklahoma State
First Responder Bowl: Wash. State vs. Louisiana Tech
Frisco Bowl: Oregon State vs. Houston
Holiday Bowl: California vs. Pittsburgh
Independence Bowl: Stanford vs. Army
Las Vegas Bowl: Arizona State vs. Texas A&M
Los Angeles Bowl: UCLA vs. Boise State
Redbox Bowl: Washington vs. Indiana
Sun Bowl: Utah vs. Miami (Fla.)
Fiesta Bowl: Oregon vs. Penn State

Pac-12 Coordinator Carousel

Arizona: Defense
New: Paul Rhoads
Old: Marcel Yates

Arizona State: Offense
New: Zak Hill
Old: Rob Likens

Arizona State: Defense
New: Marvin Lewis, Antonio Pierce
Old: Danny Gonzales

California: Offense
New: Bill Musgrave
Old: Beau Baldwin

Colorado: Offense
New: Darrin Chiaverini
Old: Jay Johnson

Oregon: Offense
New: Joe Moorhead
Old: Marcus Arroyo

USC: Defense
New: Todd Orlando
Old: Clancy Pendergast

Washington: Offense
New: John Donovan
Old: Bush Hamdan

Washington: Defense
New: Pete Kwiatkowski, Ikaika Malloe
Old: Pete Kwiatkowski, Jimmy Lake

Wash. State: Offense
New: Brian Smith, Craig Stutzmann
Old: Mike Leach

Wash. State: Defense
New: Jake Dickert
Old: Tracy Claeys

OCT. 17
OREGON AT CALIFORNIA
Cal beat defending Pac-12 champion Washington 20–19 last season. This year, the Golden Bears get their shot at Oregon at home.

NOV. 7
USC AT OREGON
A Pac-12 Championship Game preview? First things first — USC must be more competitive against Oregon.

NOV. 21
USC AT UCLA
Even in tough times, USC has maintained the upper hand against UCLA, winning four of the last five.

NOV. 21
STANFORD AT CALIFORNIA
Cal finally broke through in the Big Game, beating Stanford 24–20 on The Farm to end a nine-game losing streak to its chief rival.

NOV. 27
WASHINGTON AT WASH. STATE
The Apple Cup has been a poison pill for Washington State lately. The Cougars' last win over the Huskies came in Pullman (2012).

NOV. 28
NOTRE DAME AT USC
It's always special when these historic rivals meet, especially if it falls on Thanksgiving weekend.

Kedon Slovis

Pac-12 Returning Leaders

Passing	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	AVG/G
Kedon Slovis, USC	392	282	71.9	3,502	30	9	291.8
Dorian Thompson-Robinson, UCLA	362	216	59.7	2,701	21	12	245.5
Jayden Daniels, Ariz. State	338	205	60.7	2,943	17	2	245.3

Rushing	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
CJ Verdell, Oregon	197	1,220	6.2	8	89	87.1
Alex Fontenot, Colorado	185	874	4.7	5	32	79.5
Jermar Jefferson, Oregon State	142	685	4.8	8	54	76.1

Receiving	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
Amon-Ra St. Brown, USC	77	1,042	13.5	6	95	80.2
Tyler Vaughns, USC	74	912	12.3	6	49	70.2
Johnny Johnson III, Oregon	57	836	14.7	7	73	59.7

Tackles: Jahad Woods, Washington State (141), Kuony Deng, California (119)
Sacks: Hamilcar Rashed Jr., Oregon State (14.0), Cameron Goode, California (9.5)
Interceptions: Six players tied with 4

2019 Pac-12 Standings

NORTH	PAC-12	OVERALL	SOUTH	PAC-12	OVERALL
Oregon	8-1	12-2	Utah	8-1	11-3
Oregon State	4-5	5-7	USC	7-2	8-5
California	4-5	8-5	UCLA	4-5	4-8
Washington	4-5	8-5	Arizona State	4-5	8-5
Washington State	3-6	6-7	Colorado	3-6	5-7
Stanford	3-6	4-8	Arizona	2-7	4-8

2019 Bowl Results

Cheez-It Bowl: Air Force 31, Washington State 21
Redbox Bowl: California 35, Illinois 20
Las Vegas Bowl: Washington 38, Boise State 7
Sun Bowl: Arizona State 20, Florida State 14
Holiday Bowl: Iowa 49, USC 24
Alamo Bowl: Texas 38, Utah 10
Rose Bowl: Oregon 28, Wisconsin 27

2019 Pac-12 Team Stats & Rankings

Offense

	SCORING	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
Arizona	26.9 (7)	174.0 (3)	266.1 (3)	440.1 (3)
Arizona State	24.8 (9)	123.2 (9)	248.8 (8)	372.1 (10)
California	21.2 (12)	131.5 (8)	197.0 (12)	328.5 (12)
Colorado	23.5 (10)	150.3 (5)	238.2 (10)	388.5 (9)
Oregon	35.4 (2)	174.9 (2)	258.2 (5)	433.1 (4)
Oregon State	31.2 (6)	156.7 (4)	255.1 (7)	411.8 (6)
Stanford	21.7 (11)	105.5 (11)	262.4 (4)	367.9 (11)
UCLA	26.7 (8)	150.2 (6)	255.5 (6)	405.7 (7)
USC	32.5 (3)	118.2 (10)	335.8 (2)	454.0 (2)
Utah	32.3 (4)	201.4 (1)	227.6 (11)	429.0 (5)
Washington	32.0 (5)	147.8 (7)	243.4 (9)	391.2 (8)
Washington State	37.8 (1)	68.1 (12)	437.2 (1)	505.2 (1)

Defense

	SCORING	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
Arizona	35.8 (12)	181.6 (11)	289.8 (11)	471.4 (12)
Arizona State	22.4 (5)	125.1 (3)	268.2 (7)	393.3 (5)
California	21.9 (4)	126.3 (4)	264.2 (5)	390.5 (4)
Colorado	31.8 (9)	153.6 (8)	288.3 (10)	441.9 (8)
Oregon	16.5 (2)	108.9 (2)	220.1 (2)	329.1 (2)
Oregon State	32.5 (10)	169.5 (10)	276.2 (8)	445.7 (9)
Stanford	29.8 (7)	150.8 (7)	279.5 (9)	430.3 (7)
UCLA	34.8 (11)	145.5 (6)	310.8 (12)	456.3 (11)
USC	29.4 (6)	162.3 (9)	246.2 (4)	408.5 (6)
Utah	15.0 (1)	81.8 (1)	187.4 (1)	269.2 (1)
Washington	19.4 (3)	126.4 (5)	222.2 (3)	348.6 (3)
Washington State	31.4 (8)	185.5 (12)	267.0 (6)	452.5 (10)

Slovis, Borghi, Daniels, Little, Deng, Schooler: Peter Brouillet

ALL-PAC-12 TEAM

First-Team Offense

QB	**Kedon Slovis**	6-2	200	So.	USC
RB	**CJ Verdell**	5-9	205	Jr.	Oregon
RB	**Jermar Jefferson**	5-10	208	Jr.	Oregon State
AP	**Max Borghi**	5-10	197	Jr.	Washington State
WR	**Amon-Ra St. Brown**	6-1	195	Jr.	USC
WR	**Tyler Vaughns**	6-2	190	Sr.	USC
TE	**Brant Kuithe**	6-2	235	Jr.	Utah
C	**Drew Dalman**	6-3	286	Sr.	Stanford
OL	**Penei Sewell**	6-6	330	Jr.	Oregon
OL	**Abraham Lucas**	6-7	324	Jr.	Washington State
OL	**Alijah Vera-Tucker**	6-4	315	Jr.	USC
OL	**Jaxson Kirkland**	6-7	322	Jr.	Washington

Max Borghi

Kayvon Thibodeaux

First-Team Defense

DL	**Levi Onwuzurike**	6-3	288	Sr.	Washington
DL	**Jay Tufele**	6-3	315	Jr.	USC
DL	**Kayvon Thibodeaux**	6-5	250	So.	Oregon
DL	**Drake Jackson**	6-4	255	So.	USC
LB	**Nate Landman**	6-3	230	Sr.	Colorado
LB	**Hamilcar Rashed Jr.**	6-4	238	Sr.	Oregon State
LB	**Joe Tryon**	6-5	262	Jr.	Washington
CB	**Thomas Graham Jr.**	5-11	193	Sr.	Oregon
CB	**Elijah Molden**	5-10	191	Sr.	Washington
S	**Jevon Holland**	6-1	200	Jr.	Oregon
S	**Talanoa Hufanga**	6-1	215	Jr.	USC

First-Team Specialists

K	**Blake Mazza**	5-9	175	Jr.	Washington State
P	**Ben Griffiths**	6-5	245	So.	USC
KR	**Connor Wedington**	6-0	198	Sr.	Stanford
PR	**Britain Covey**	5-8	170	Jr.	Utah

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	**Jayden Daniels**	6-3	175	So.	Arizona State
RB	**Christopher Brown Jr.**	6-1	230	Jr.	California
RB	**Richard Newton**	6-0	208	So.	Washington
AP	**Britain Covey**	5-8	170	Jr.	Utah
WR	**Frank Darby**	6-1	200	Sr.	Arizona State
WR	**Michael Wilson**	6-2	211	Jr.	Stanford
TE	**Cade Otton**	6-5	240	Jr.	Washington
C	**Orlando Umana**	6-4	340	Sr.	Utah
OL	**Walker Little**	6-7	320	Sr.	Stanford
OL	**William Sherman**	6-4	310	Jr.	Colorado
OL	**Dohnovan West**	6-3	277	So.	Arizona State
OL	**Nick Ford**	6-5	324	Jr.	Utah

Jayden Daniels
Arizona State

Walker Little
Stanford

Kuony Deng
California

Colin Schooler
Arizona

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	**Mustafa Johnson**	6-2	290	Sr.	Colorado
DL	**Jermayne Lole**	6-2	284	Jr.	Arizona State
DL	**Mika Tafua**	6-3	258	Jr.	Utah
DL	**Jordon Scott**	6-1	325	Sr.	Oregon
LB	**Kuony Deng**	6-6	245	Sr.	California
LB	**Jahad Woods**	6-1	228	Sr.	Washington State
LB	**Ryan Bowman**	6-0	269	Sr.	Washington
CB	**Paulson Adebo**	6-1	192	Sr.	Stanford
CB	**Cam Bynum**	6-0	200	Sr.	California
S	**Brady Breeze**	6-0	198	Sr.	Oregon
S	**Elijah Hicks**	5-11	200	Sr.	California

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	**Peyton Henry**	5-11	200	Jr.	Washington
P	**Oscar Draguicevich III**	6-0	185	Sr.	Washington State
KR	**Mykael Wright**	5-11	182	So.	Oregon
PR	**Jevon Holland**	6-1	200	Jr.	Oregon

THIRD-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	**Chase Garbers**	6-2	215	Jr.	California
RB	**Austin Jones**	5-10	191	So.	Stanford
RB	**Alex Fontenot**	6-0	195	Jr.	Colorado
AP	**Demetric Felton**	5-9	185	Sr.	UCLA
WR	**Johnny Johnson III**	6-0	198	Sr.	Oregon
WR	**Tay Martin**	6-3	186	Sr.	Washington State
TE	**Brady Russell**	6-3	255	Jr.	Colorado
C	**Michael Saffell**	6-2	290	Sr.	California
OL	**Jake Curhan**	6-6	335	Sr.	California
OL	**Brandon Kipper**	6-6	304	Jr.	Oregon State
OL	**Jake Burton**	6-6	312	Sr.	UCLA
OL	**Liam Ryan**	6-5	300	Sr.	Washington State

THIRD-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	**Brett Johnson**	6-5	285	So.	California
DL	**Osa Odighizuwa**	6-2	279	Sr.	UCLA
DL	**Thomas Booker**	6-4	298	Jr.	Stanford
DL	**Luc Bequette**	6-2	290	Sr.	California
LB	**Colin Schooler**	6-1	229	Sr.	Arizona
LB	**Cameron Goode**	6-3	235	Sr.	California
LB	**Devin Lloyd**	6-3	235	Jr.	Utah
CB	**Deommodore Lenoir**	5-11	203	Sr.	Oregon
CB	**Jack Jones**	5-11	170	Sr.	Arizona State
S	**Aashari Crosswell**	6-0	196	Jr.	Arizona State
S	**Skyler Thomas**	5-9	185	Sr.	Washington State

THIRD-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	**Jet Toner**	6-4	199	Sr.	Stanford
P	**Ryan Sanborn**	6-3	198	So.	Stanford
KR	**Travell Harris**	5-9	180	Jr.	Washington State
PR	**Nikko Remigio**	5-10	180	Jr.	California

Thibodeaux: Oregon Athletics

CALIFORNIA Golden Bears

National Forecast: **33** · Pac-12 North Prediction: **2** · Projected Record: **9-3, 6-3 Pac-12**

Christopher Brown Jr.

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Justin Wilcox
Record at School: 20-18 (3 years)
Career Record: 20-18 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Bill Musgrave
Defensive Coordinators: Tim DeRuyter, Peter Sirmon
Location: Berkeley, CA
Stadium: Memorial Stadium (62,467)

KEY GOLDEN BEARS

CHASE GARBERS, QB 13–2 as Cal's starter (7–0 in 2019) when he plays more than half the game.

CHRISTOPHER BROWN JR., RB Does some heavy lifting for the Cal offense. Had 197 rushing yards vs. UC Davis in the opener, 111 yards vs. UCLA and 120 vs. Illinois.

CAMRYN BYNUM, CB A second-team All-Pac-12 pick last season after totaling 59 tackles and nine pass breakups.

KEY LOSSES

EVAN WEAVER, ILB Led the nation with 182 tackles, earning Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year and consensus All-America honors.

ASHTYN DAVIS, S Second-team All-Pac-12 selection had 55 tackles, four pass breakups, two interceptions, a forced fumble and two fumble recoveries last season.

JAYLINN HAWKINS, S Had 56 tackles and three interceptions, boosting his career total to 10 picks.

RISING STAR

BRETT JOHNSON was good enough as a true freshman to start eight times at nose guard after two projected regulars were sidelined by non-football issues. The 6'5", 285-pounder wound up with 26 tackles, including 3.5 for losses.

The Bears continue to travel on an upward arc, and they have more ambitious goals still for Year Four under head coach Justin Wilcox. They have played in bowl games in back-to-back seasons for the first time since doing it seven years in a row through 2009 under Jeff Tedford. And they have assembled back-to-back winning seasons thanks mainly to a stout defense, last year featuring consensus All-America linebacker Evan Weaver.

Weaver is gone, but the defense should remain solid, and the offense may be ready to take a major step forward. Quarterback Chase Garbers leads a unit that returns every starter from Cal's 35–20 win over Illinois in the Redbox Bowl. New offensive coordinator Bill Musgrave brings an NFL flavor to the offense.

With a total of 18 starters back, the biggest changes were on the coaching staff, where Angus McClure will run the offensive line, Aristotle Thompson takes over the running backs and Marcel Yates will coach defensive backs. Wilcox also promoted linebacker coach Peter Sirmon to co-defensive coordinator.

OFFENSE The Bears' offense has struggled since the start of 2018, scoring more than 28 points in a game just three times in a span of 21 outings. They averaged just 17.4 points over the first eight games last season but then found a groove, scoring at a 27.4-point clip while going 4–1 to close out last season.

The offensive line, which had to replace two projected starters within the first week of the schedule, gradually began to mesh. At the same time, Garbers finally got healthy after missing four games due to a broken collarbone and a subsequent concussion. In wins over Stanford, UCLA and Illinois to close the season, Garbers completed 66 percent of his passes for 787 yards with six touchdowns and only one interception. Although he got limited spring practice with Musgrave, Garbers doesn't think the new system will be an issue. "It's quite easy to grasp and understand even though it's a whole new terminology," he says.

Every key running back returns, led by junior Christopher Brown Jr., who rushed for 914 yards and eight TDs last fall. The receiving corps is also largely intact, featuring junior Nikko Remigio, who emerged as a potential standout after catching 18 passes for 251 yards and two TDs over the final three games.

The O-line, anchored by center Michael Saffell and right tackle Jake Curhan, should be deeper with the return of Will Craig and Gentle Williams, both sidelined by injury a year ago. The five returning regulars have a combined total of 110 starts under their belts.

DEFENSE The defense returns without three headliners, but there is plenty of experienced talent coming back. It helps that senior defensive ends Luc Bequette and Zeandae Johnson, who have a career 50 starts between them, each received sixth years of eligibility from the NCAA due to previous injuries.

2020 SCHEDULE

Aug.	29	at UNLV
Sept.	5	TCU
Sept.	12	Cal Poly
Sept.	26	Utah
Oct.	3	at Washington State
Oct.	10	at USC
Oct.	17	Oregon
Oct.	24	at Oregon State
Oct.	31	Washington
Nov.	7	at Arizona State
Nov.	21	Stanford
Nov.	27	UCLA

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5, 4-5 PAC-12

Aug.	31	UC Davis	W	27-13
Sept.	7	at Washington	W	20-19
Sept.	14	North Texas	W	23-17
Sept.	21	at Ole Miss	W	28-20
Sept.	27	Arizona State	L	17-24
Oct.	6	at Oregon	L	7-17
Oct.	19	Oregon State	L	17-21
Oct.	26	at Utah	L	0-35
Nov.	9	Washington State	W	33-20
Nov.	16	USC	L	17-41
Nov.	23	at Stanford	W	24-20
Nov.	30	at UCLA	W	28-18
Dec.	30	vs. Illinois #	W	35-20

#Redbox Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	PAC-12	NATIONAL
Scoring	21.2 ppg	12	112
Rushing	131.5 ypg	8	104
Passing	197.0 ypg	12	99
Total	328.5 ypg	12	117
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	21.9 ppg	4	33
Rushing	126.3 ypg	4	27
Passing	264.2 ypg	5	112
Total	390.5 ypg	4	65
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
+3	+0.23	7	46

2020 RECRUITS

1. DJ Rogers, TE, Sammamish, WA
2. Jaden Casey, QB, Calabasas, CA
3. Jeremiah Hunter, WR, Fresno, CA
4. Muelu Iosefa, LB, Mililani, HI
5. Collin Gamble, CB, Argyle, TX
6. Chris Street, RB, San Juan Capistrano, CA
7. Jaedon Roberts, ATH, Avon, CT
8. Tyson McWilliams, CB, San Diego, CA
9. Dejuan Butler, CB, Antioch, CA
10. Andy Alfieri, LB, Portland, OR
11. Trey Paster, ATH, Atwater, CA
12. Mason Mangum, WR, Austin, TX
13. Ricky Correia, DT, Fresno, CA
14. Isaiah Young, CB, Corona, CA
15. Everett Johnson, OT, Turlock, CA
16. Tommy Christakos, TE, Scottsdale, AZ
17. Justin Baker, RB, Burien, WA
18. Stanley McKenzie, DT, Honolulu, HI
19. Nate Rutchena, ATH, Danville, CA
20. Ender Aguilar, ATH, Anaheim, CA
21. Damien Moore, RB, La Puente, CA
22. Ethan Saunders, DT, Perris, CA
23. Jake Muller, TE, Mission Viejo, CA
24. Zach Johnson, QB, Newhall, CA
25. Aidan Lee, ATH, Mesa, AZ
26. Jamieson Sheahan, P, Melbourne, Aus.

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Peter Brouillet

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	26.7	123
Defense	30.1	89
Margin	**-3.5**	**112**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	38.0%	105
Defense	42.6%	76
Margin	**-4.7%**	**104**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.1	112
Defense	5.4	46
Margin	**-0.3**	**84**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.6	70
Defense	3.8	16
Margin	**+0.7**	**27**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	7.8	16
Actual	3	43
Margin	**-4.8**	**103**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

8.44%

Cal ranked among the nation's best in terms of ball security in 2019. The Golden Bears suffered a turnover on just 8.44 percent of their offensive possessions last season, which was the fourth-best mark in the Pac-12 and ranked No. 19 in FBS.

27.9%

Cal's strength was its defense in 2019, but the Golden Bears weren't exactly dominant early in drives. Opponents were forced to go three-and-out 43 times across 154 possessions against the Cal defense last season, a 27.9 percent rate that ranked 93rd in FBS.

19.98%

The Golden Bears tallied 168 offensive plays of 10 yards or more across 841 snaps in 2019. Cal's 19.98 percent rate of double-digit gains ranked tenth in the Pac-12 and No. 74 in the country.

The coaching staff has high hopes for Brett Johnson, who started eight games at nose guard as a freshman last season.

Kuony Deng, who arrived from junior college before last season, had 119 tackles from his inside linebacker spot to rank third in the Pac-12. Outside linebacker Cameron Goode, who had pick-sixes early in the season in both 2017 and '18 before suffering season-ending injuries, finally enjoyed a mostly healthy stretch last year and responded with 9.5 sacks, third in the Pac-12.

Cornerbacks Camryn Bynum, an honorable mention All-Pac-12 selection, and Elijah Hicks return, but Hicks will be moved to safety after the departure of Ashtyn Davis and Jaylinn Hawkins.

SPECIALISTS The Bears must replace both their placekicker and punter from a year ago. Redshirt sophomore Dario Longhetto, who served as the backup punter in 2019, is set to become the No. 1 placekicker. Longhetto replaces Greg Thomas, who made 23-of-34 field-goal attempts and 65-of-66 PATs the past two seasons. Junior transfer Jamieson Sheahan will replace fellow Australian Steven Coutts as the punter. Cal's return game has been ordinary — just one kick return for a TD in the past five seasons and none via punt return since Keenan Allen in 2012.

FINAL ANALYSIS Cal finished in a three-way tie for second place in the Pac-12 North last season, matching Washington and Oregon State at 4–5 in conference play. The Bears won't be satisfied with another 4–5 ledger in league play.

Cal has a favorable schedule that features home games against its three biggest North division rivals — Oregon, Washington and Stanford — along with Utah and UCLA.

The offense finished strong in 2019 and returns nearly intact. The O-line will have to do better than allowing 46 sacks (which ranked last in the Pac-12) and must do its part to keep Garbers upright after he was injured twice last season.

The defense loses three players hoping to make NFL rosters, but there is a ton of experience returning to a unit that has carried the Bears the past two seasons.

"It's an exciting time for us," Wilcox says. "The dial's getting turned up, and that's a good thing. The expectations should continue to rise."

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (10)

WR	17	Makai Polk (So.)	**80**	**Trevon Clark (Sr.)**
WR	**4**	**Nikko Remigio (Jr.)**	10	Jeremiah Hawkins (Sr.)
WR	11	Kekoa Crawford (Sr.)	14	Monroe Young (So.)
LT	**61**	**Valentino Daltoso (Sr.)**	74	Will Craig (So.)
LG	**73**	**Matthew Cindric (So.)**	64	Gentle Williams (Sr.)
C	**53**	**Michael Saffell (Sr.)**	60	Brian Driscoll (Fr.)
RG	**72**	**McKade Mettauer (So.)**	62	Ben Coleman (Fr.)
RT	**71**	**Jake Curhan (Sr.)**	63	Brayden Rohme (Fr.)
TE	**85**	**Jake Tonges (Jr.)**	84	Gavin Reinwald (Jr.)
QB	**7**	**Chase Garbers (Jr.)**	6	Devon Modster (Sr.)
RB	**34**	**Christopher Brown Jr. (Jr.)**	23	Marcel Dancy (Sr.)

DEFENSE (8)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**93**	**Luc Bequette (Sr.)**	47	JH Tevis (So.)
NT	**90**	**Brett Johnson (So.)**	97	Aaron Maldonado (Jr.)
DE	**44**	**Zeandae Johnson (Sr.)**	52	Braxten Croteau (So.)
OLB	**19**	**Cameron Goode (Sr.)**	52	Braxten Croteau (So.)
MLB	**8**	**Kuony Deng (Sr.)**	51	Blake Antzoulatos (Fr.)
MLB	54	Evan Tattersall (So.)	55	Muelu Iosefa (Fr.)
OLB	**96**	**Tevin Paul (Sr.)**	48	Orin Patu (Fr.)
CB	**24**	**Camryn Bynum (Sr.)**	29	Isaiah Young (Fr.)
CB	7	Chigozie Anusiem (So.)	30	Jaylen Martin (Fr.)
S	32	Daniel Scott (Jr.)	26	Craig Woodson (Fr.)
S	**3**	**Elijah Hicks (Sr.)**	27	Trey Paster (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	30	Dario Longhetto (So.)	**KR**	26	DeShawn Collins (Sr.)
P	37	Jamieson Sheahan (Jr.)	**PR**	4	Nikko Remigio (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Chase Garbers	215	131	1,772	14	3
Devon Modster	122	62	705	5	5
Spencer Brasch	25	9	71	0	1

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Christopher Brown Jr.	208	914	4.4	8
Marcel Dancy	57	248	4.4	2
Chase Garbers	90	223	2.5	3
DeShawn Collins	38	199	5.2	2
Devon Modster	48	168	3.5	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Nikko Remigio	38	513	13.5	3
Jordan Duncan	25	364	14.6	2
Christopher Brown Jr.	22	166	7.5	4
Trevon Clark	21	250	11.9	2
Marcel Dancy	20	153	7.7	0

KICKING: Greg Thomas, 11-17 FGs, 66 pts.
TACKLES: Evan Weaver, 182; **Kuony Deng, 119**
SACKS: **Cameron Goode, 9.5**
INTERCEPTIONS: Jaylinn Hawkins, 3

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE GOLDEN BEARS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP CALIFORNIA

"This is a sneaky good team. A lot of people might be sleeping on them. They could be a dark horse behind Oregon in the division. ... The defensive scheme is really smart and simple and aggressive, and they run a lot of stuff by you on offense. That's still their weaker side, but (Chase) Garbers healthy makes them a really good team. They had nothing going without him. (Bill) Musgrave is going to clean a lot of that stuff up. They need to be simpler and find what works for them. The offense to this point looks like they've fit players into a scheme. It has to be the other way around. ... It's a cliché about Cal, but they recruit to be smart on the field. The defenders have good instincts, and they're always in the right place. Most of that defense is back. ... This could be a sneaky good team if Garbers is healthy and they get the offense working. Most of those guys are back, so they won't have to worry too much about depth. ... When you look around the division, absent Oregon there are a lot of teams breaking in new offensive philosophies or struggling in that area. Cal is built to exploit that. The defense is consistent, and the offense has experience. They could go on a run this season, and with (Justin) Wilcox's name coming up more and more for other jobs, the window might not be this open again for a while."

OREGON Ducks

National Forecast: **10** · Pac-12 North Prediction: **1** · Projected Record: **11-2, 8-1 Pac-12**

Penei Sewell

The remaking of Oregon football in the image of head coach Mario Cristobal continued in 2019, and that process figures to extend into 2020.

Known for high-octane offense and flashy uniforms, the Ducks cemented a new smash-mouth identity by beating Utah in the Pac-12 Championship game and Wisconsin in the Rose Bowl. The style change was implemented on defense as well, with the Ducks thriving under first-year coordinator Andy Avalos last season. In 2020, that unit will try to keep Oregon contending for championships while the offense weathers the loss of quarterback Justin Herbert and four starting linemen.

OFFENSE Herbert's heir apparent is Tyler Shough, who lacks his predecessor's stature and arm strength but fits the stereotype of a charismatic leader who commands respect. Shough was very efficient in four mop-up appearances over the course of the 2019 season, and he got all the first-team reps during the four spring practices Oregon held. Cristobal said Shough "entered the spring as the starter, (and) he leaves the spring as the starter."

The deficit in experience is significant, though, and the Ducks addressed it by adding graduate transfer Anthony Brown from Boston College. Though Brown is coming off the second major knee injury of his career, he is the only other QB on the roster with collegiate experience. Having a veteran backup should allow more freedom to run the QB. New coordinator Joe Moorhead says his previous offenses would employ 10 to 15 plays per game with a QB run option, a number he calls "just about right."

The skill positions feature no such lack of experience. The Ducks return eight of the 10 players who had double-digit receptions in 2019, as well as a trio of running backs who combined for more than 2,200 rushing yards. Junior CJ Verdell runs with a punishing style that has helped him post back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons, though it also takes a toll on his body; backups Travis Dye and Cyrus Habibi-Likio combined for 995 rushing yards off the bench, with Habibi-Likio scoring 10 touchdowns.

Johnny Johnson III and Jaylon Redd lead the receiving corps, with Johnson having enjoyed a bounce-back junior season in 2019. They provide steady, capable experience. Sophomores Mycah Pittman, Bryan Addison and Devon Williams all have higher ceilings and should have the chance this fall to show what they can do. The tight end group is a mix of athletic pass catchers (Cam McCormick, Spencer Webb) and physical run blockers (Hunter Kampmoyer).

On the line, the Ducks return Outland Trophy winner Penei Sewell but must replace the other four starters. Alex Forsyth is a Swiss army knife in the mold of departed four-year starter Calvin Throckmorton, and the Ducks think they have another budding star in Steven Jones. The staff prepared for this changing of the guard in recent recruiting classes, and coaches hope that it will pay off with solid contributions from juco transfers Malaesala Aumavae-Laulu and T.J. Bass.

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Mario Cristobal
Record at School: 21-7 (2+ year)
Career Record: 48-54 (8+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Joe Moorhead
Defensive Coordinators: Andy Avalos
Location: Eugene, OR
Stadium: Autzen Stadium (54,000)

KEY DUCKS

PENEI SEWELL, LT Won the Outland Trophy as a true sophomore and was the third unanimous All-American in school history.

JEVON HOLLAND, DB Nickel defender is one of just three returning FBS players with four or more interceptions in both 2018 and 2019.

MYKAEL WRIGHT, DB Forced his way onto the field in 2019 despite two returning starters at corner; also returned two kickoffs for TDs.

KEY LOSSES

JUSTIN HERBERT, QB Hometown kid ended up being a four-year starter who validated decision to stay in school as a senior.

TROY DYE, LB The only player in school history to lead the team in tackles four times; finished with 397, third most in UO history.

CALVIN THROCKMORTON, OL Started 52 games at four different positions over the past four years, primarily at right tackle.

RISING STAR

Wideout **MYCAH PITTMAN** suffered a broken collarbone during preseason camp and a broken forearm in mid-November, but he returned after both injuries and finished 2019 with 18 catches for 227 yards and two TDs. The Ducks were unbeaten in the seven games Pittman played last season.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	North Dakota State
Sept.	12	Ohio State
Sept.	19	Hawaii
Sept.	26	at Colorado
Oct.	3	Washington
Oct.	17	at California
Oct.	24	Stanford
Oct.	31	at Arizona
Nov.	7	USC
Nov.	13	Arizona State
Nov.	21	at Washington State
Nov.	28	at Oregon State

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 12-2, 8-1 PAC-12

Aug.	31	vs. Auburn #	L	21-27
Sept.	7	Nevada	W	77-6
Sept.	14	Montana	W	35-3
Sept.	21	at Stanford	W	21-6
Oct.	6	California	W	17-7
Oct.	11	Colorado	W	45-3
Oct.	19	at Washington	W	35-31
Oct.	26	Washington State	W	37-35
Nov.	2	at USC	W	56-24
Nov.	16	Arizona	W	34-6
Nov.	23	at Arizona State	L	28-31
Nov.	30	Oregon State	W	24-10
Dec.	6	vs. Utah %	W	37-15
Jan.	1	vs. Wisconsin &	W	28-27

#Arlington, TX %Santa Clara, CA &Rose Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	PAC-12	NATIONAL
Scoring	35.4 ppg	2	16
Rushing	174.9 ypg	2	51
Passing	258.2 ypg	5	41
Total	433.1 ypg	4	40
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	16.5 ppg	2	9
Rushing	108.9 ypg	2	13
Passing	220.1 ypg	2	53
Total	329.1 ypg	2	22
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
+16	+1.14	1	5

2020 RECRUITS

1. Justin Flowe, LB, Upland, CA
2. Noah Sewell, LB, Orem, UT
3. Dontae Manning, CB, Kansas City, MO
4. Jay Butterfield, QB, Brentwood, CA
5. Luke Hill, CB, Baltimore, MD
6. Kris Hutson, WR, Bellflower, CA
7. Robby Ashford, QB, Hoover, AL
8. Jaden Navarrette, ATH, Norco, CA
9. Jonathan Denis, OG, Homestead, FL
10. Jayson Jones, DT, Calera, AL
11. Trey Benson, RB, Greenville, MS
12. Maceal Afaese, DT, Kapolei, HI
13. Bennett Williams, S, Mountain View, CA*
14. Jackson LaDuke, LB, Sparks, NV
15. T.J. Bass, OG, Deming, WA*
16. Bradyn Swinson, DE, Douglasville, GA
17. Jaylan Jeffers, OT, Scottsdale, AZ
18. JJ Greenfield, S, Harbor City, CA
19. Marcus Harper II, OG, Flossmoor, IL
20. Faaope Laloulu, OT, Honolulu, HI
21. Jaylen Smith, DT, Ahoskie, NC
22. Jake Shipley, DE, Indio, CA

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Eric Evans Photography

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	32.5	10
Defense	27.4	23
Margin	**+5.1**	**12**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	45.0%	37
Defense	38.1%	31
Margin	**+6.9%**	**23**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.3	26
Defense	4.7	11
Margin	**+1.6**	**10**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.8	48
Defense	3.4	3
Margin	**+1.4**	**8**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	10.3	7
Actual	16	5
Margin	**+5.7**	**20**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

40.13%

Oregon scored a touchdown on 61 of 152 possessions last season, meaning the Ducks found the end zone on 40.13 percent of their offensive drives in 2019 — the second-best rate in the Pac-12 and No. 15 nationally.

35.9%

Oregon did an excellent job keeping opponents out of the end zone. The Ducks allowed 14 TDs in 39 red zone opportunities last year — a 35.9 percent TD rate that led the Pac-12 and ranked second in the country.

6.06%

Opponents gained 10 yards or more on just 47 of 467 rushing attempts against the Ducks last season, and Oregon surrendered only 12 pass plays of 30 yards or longer across 506 attempts. At 6.06 percent, the explosive play percentage Oregon allowed was best in the Pac-12 and ranked second in the country in 2019.

DEFENSE The UO defense lost its own "quarterback" in inside linebacker Troy Dye, but there's every reason to think the unit can be even better in 2020 despite his loss.

Nearly everyone else of significance returns, and there's a bunch of young talent pushing the veterans. Players like defensive end Kayvon Thibodeaux, cornerback Mykael Wright and safety Brady Breeze were among the team's best playmakers during the Pac-12 title game and Rose Bowl, yet none was a full-time starter in 2019. Such was the depth of talent in the first season under Avalos, and it's no different entering 2020.

The task of replacing Dye falls to junior Isaac Slade-Matautia, who led the team last year in both QB hurries (six) and passes broken up (11). All eyes will be on true freshman inside linebackers Justin Flowe and Noah Sewell, the top two recruits in the country at the position; both were early enrollees, though neither was able to participate in the abbreviated spring practice schedule.

The big question mark is the secondary. Senior cornerbacks Thomas Graham Jr. and Deommodore Lenoir are mainstays, but Wright has to see the field; Avalos experimented with using Graham at nickel during the spring. Doing that pushes budding star Jevon Holland into one of the two safety spots, which are themselves crowded by the presence of established contributors Breeze, Nick Pickett and Verone McKinley III. The loss of 11 spring practices denied the Ducks important chances to sort through those options.

SPECIALISTS Camden Lewis will look to clean up a hiccup in his placekicking as a freshman, when he was 5-of-6 from 30 yards and out but just 4-of-8 inside 30. With dangerous return men Holland and Wright back for another year, the lingering offseason task was replacing punter Blake Maimone, whose career average of 43.4 yards was tops in UO history.

FINAL ANALYSIS If the Ducks indeed take another step forward defensively — and there's every reason to expect them to — that will ease the pressure on Shough as he steps into the enormous shadow cast by Herbert. Oregon has a bellwether game in Week Two when Ohio State visits Eugene, so it won't take long to learn a lot about the Ducks' 2020 fortunes.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (5)

WR	**3**	**Johnny Johnson III (Sr.)**	83	Josh Delgado (So.)
WR	**30**	**Jaylon Redd (Sr.)**	4	Mycah Pittman (So.)
WR	2	Devon Williams (So.)	80	Bryan Addison (So.)
LT	**58**	**Penei Sewell (Jr.)**	76	Jonah Tauanu'u (Fr.)
LG	71	Malaesala Aumavae-Laulu (Jr.)	72	Sam Poutasi (Sr.)
C	78	Alex Forsyth (Jr.)	53	Ryan Walk (Jr.)
RG	56	T.J. Bass (Jr.)	66	Jonathan Denis (Fr.)
RT	74	Steven Jones (So.)	79	Chris Randazzo (So.)
TE	84	Cam McCormick (Sr.)	**48**	**Hunter Kampmoyer (Sr.)**
QB	12	Tyler Shough (So.)		Anthony Brown (Sr.)
RB	**7**	**CJ Verdell (Jr.)**	26	Travis Dye (Jr.)

DEFENSE (8)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	5	Kayvon Thibodeaux (So.)	52	Andrew Faoliu (So.)
NT	**34**	**Jordon Scott (Sr.)**	50	Popo Aumavae (Jr.)
DT	**99**	**Austin Faoliu (Sr.)**	97	Brandon Dorlus (So.)
STUD	47	Mase Funa (So.)	29	Adrian Jackson (So.)
MLB	**41**	**Isaac Slade-Matautia (Jr.)**		Justin Flowe (Fr.)
MLB	54	Dru Mathis (Sr.)	55	Sampson Niu (Sr.)
CB	**4**	**Thomas Graham Jr. (Sr.)**	2	Mykael Wright (So.)
CB	**6**	**Deommodore Lenoir (Sr.)**	12	DJ James (So.)
NB	**8**	**Jevon Holland (Jr.)**	19	Jamal Hill (So.)
S	**16**	**Nick Pickett (Sr.)**	15	Bennett Williams (Jr.)
S	25	Brady Breeze (Sr.)	**23**	**Verone McKinley III (So.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	49	Camden Lewis (So.)	**KR**	2	Mykael Wright (So.)
P	38	Tom Snee (So.)	**PR**	8	Jevon Holland (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Justin Herbert	428	286	3,471	32	6
Tyler Shough	**15**	**12**	**144**	**3**	**0**
Juwan Johnson	1	0	0	0	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
CJ Verdell	**197**	**1,220**	**6.2**	**8**
Travis Dye	**106**	**658**	**6.2**	**0**
Cyrus Habibi-Likio	**85**	**337**	**4.0**	**10**
Darrian Felix	34	197	5.8	2
Sean Dollars	**7**	**81**	**11.6**	**0**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Johnny Johnson III	**57**	**836**	**14.7**	**7**
Jaylon Redd	**50**	**465**	**9.3**	**7**
Juwon Johnson	30	467	15.6	4
Jacob Breeland	26	405	15.6	6
Mycah Pittman	**18**	**227**	**12.6**	**2**

KICKING: **Camden Lewis, 9-14 FGs, 84 pts.**
TACKLES: Troy Dye, 84; **Jevon Holland, 66**
SACKS: **Kayvon Thibodeaux, 9.0**
INTERCEPTIONS: **Jevon Holland, 4; Verone McKinley III, 4**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE DUCKS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP OREGON

"This is the best and most complete team in the conference. They were a national title contender last year, and even losing their quarterback, they might be a better all-around roster this season. … The Joe Moorhead hire was fantastic. He's really going to click with Mario (Cristobal). If he'd been there last year, they would've gone to the postseason undefeated. … All the backs and receivers are basically back, and the talent behind them is maybe even better. The line lost some guys, but they've recruited really well on both sides. They're starting to reach for that Pete Carroll USC quality of offensive and defensive linemen. Oregon is the first Pac-12 team to look like that. They aren't there yet, though. … The defense is going to be scary good, led by the secondary. What can you say about Kayvon (Thibodeaux)? I'm not sure I've seen a single defensive player change the course of a game quite like he did against Utah. That was ridiculous. (Andy) Avalos has a lineup of killers. … They're an SEC-level recruiting program. You could see some of those freshman five stars come in and dominate right away. They're just a quarterback away. Moorhead excels in these situations, and whoever gets the job won't be tasked with winning so much as just distributing. This team is good enough for the new QB to just not lose it for them."

OREGON STATE Beavers

National Forecast: **60** · Pac-12 North Prediction: **5** · Projected Record: **6-6, 4-5 Pac-12**

Hamilcar Rashed Jr.

Year Three of the Jonathan Smith era at Oregon State begins with promise as the Beavers come off a five-win season, their best since 2014.

For 2020, the recent script has been flipped: It is OSU's defense that could be leading the way. What was one of the country's worst defenses during Smith's inaugural season in Corvallis should have some teeth. It has the Beavers feeling they're on the verge of a bowl berth for the first time since defeating Boise State in the 2013 Hawaii Bowl.

It's far from a given, however. The Beavers must retool an offensive line that lost three veterans, including four-year starters Blake Brandel and Gus Lavaka. They'll also break in a new quarterback after Jake Luton's graduation.

OFFENSE It will take some doing for Oregon State to match its offense of 2019, which set program records for yards per play (6.0) and fewest turnovers (six).

Spring football was supposed to reveal answers at quarterback, but OSU managed only four practices due to the coronavirus outbreak. The coaches had hoped to get a long look at junior college transfer Chance Nolan, a dual-threat type who is battling redshirt junior Tristan Gebbia for the starting job.

Gebbia has a leg up heading into preseason camp, as he begins his third year in OSU's offensive system. Nolan, who ran for 1,069 yards at Saddleback JC last year, must make a quick impression in August to bypass Gebbia.

Regardless of who plays quarterback, the Beavers' offense revolves around junior running back Jermar Jefferson. He ran for a freshman school-record 1,380 yards in 2018, but injuries kept him from hitting his stride last season. Smith wants to turn Jefferson loose as a runner and receiver in 2020.

Oregon State's passing game will miss Isaiah Hodgins, who declared early for the NFL Draft after amassing 13 touchdown catches and 1,171 receiving yards in 2019. But Beaver receivers, while on the small side, should be impactful. Redshirt senior Trevon Bradford, who missed most of 2019 with a foot injury, had a 56-catch, 649-yard season two years ago. Redshirt junior Tyjon Lindsey, a four-star recruit who transferred from Nebraska in 2018, adds versatility with the ability to run fly sweeps.

The Beavers are likely to use more two-tight end sets in 2020, with junior Teagan Quitoriano and redshirt freshman Luke Musgrave. Quitoriano is a two-year starter who has mostly been used as a blocker, but his receiving skills began to emerge late in 2019.

The offensive line looks different than a year ago, though it's not without experience. Redshirt junior Brandon Kipper, who started 12 games at right tackle in 2019, moves to the left side. Center Nous Keobounnam is likely to slide over to right guard, while Nathan Eldridge, who started for two years at Arizona, is the probable center.

DEFENSE Oregon State took a step forward in Year Two under defensive coordinator Tim Tibesar. The Beavers appear capable of another one in 2020, perhaps inch-

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Jonathan Smith
Record at School: 7-17 (2 years)
Career Record: 7-17 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Brian Lindgren
Defensive Coordinator: Tim Tibesar
Location: Corvallis, OR
Stadium: Reser Stadium (43,363)

KEY BEAVERS

JERMAR JEFFERSON, RB Ran for 1,380 yards as freshman in 2018, and despite numerous injuries last season had three 100-yard games.

HAMILCAR RASHED JR., OLB Led the nation in tackles for a loss with 22.5, and tied for third with 14 sacks. Both were school records.

OMAR SPEIGHTS, ILB The Freshman All-American had 73 tackles last season, including an 18-stop performance against Washington.

KEY LOSSES

JAKE LUTON, QB One of the most efficient quarterbacks in college football in 2019, Luton threw for 2,714 yards and 28 touchdowns, with only three interceptions.

ISAIAH HODGINS, WR Left after a junior season in which he caught 86 passes for 1,171 yards and a Pac-12-leading 13 touchdowns.

NOAH TOGIAI, TE The Beavers' second-leading receiver with 44 catches for 406 yards last season.

RISING STAR

ANTHONY GOULD looks to provide the Beavers' receiving and return game what it has lacked the past two years: an element of elite speed. Gould, a redshirt freshman, is a former Oregon high school track star who once ran the 100 meters in 10.49 seconds.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3	at Oklahoma State
Sept.	12	Colorado State
Sept.	19	Portland State
Sept.	26	Washington State
Oct.	3	at Arizona State
Oct.	10	at Washington
Oct.	24	California
Oct.	30	at Stanford
Nov.	7	UCLA
Nov.	14	at Utah
Nov.	21	Arizona
Nov.	28	Oregon

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 5-7, 4-5 PAC-12

Aug.	30	Oklahoma State	L	36-52
Sept.	7	at Hawaii	L	28-31
Sept.	14	Cal Poly	W	45-7
Sept.	28	Stanford	L	28-31
Oct.	5	at UCLA	W	48-31
Oct.	13	Utah	L	7-52
Oct.	19	at California	W	21-17
Nov.	2	at Arizona	W	56-38
Nov.	8	Washington	L	7-19
Nov.	16	Arizona State	W	35-34
Nov.	23	at Washington State	L	53-54
Nov.	30	at Oregon	L	10-24

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	PAC-12	NATIONAL
Scoring	31.2 ppg	6	48
Rushing	156.7 ypg	4	70
Passing	255.1 ypg	7	43
Total	411.8 ypg	6	58
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	32.5 ppg	10	105
Rushing	169.5 ypg	10	79
Passing	276.2 ypg	8	117
Total	445.7 ypg	9	108
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
+10	+0.83	3	9

2020 RECRUITS

1. Isaiah Newell, ATH, Walnut Creek, CA
2. Chance Nolan, QB, Menifee, CA*
3. Alton Julian, CB, Palo Alto, CA*
4. Rejzohn Wright, CB, Union City, CA*
5. Ben Gulbranson, QB, Newbury Park, CA
6. Zeriah Beason, WR, Duncanville, TX
7. John Miller, LB, Tualatin, OR
8. Tavis Shippen, DE, Murrieta, CA*
9. Junior Walling, LB, Keizer, OR
10. Johnathan Riley, S, Waldorf, MD*
11. Sione Lolohea, DE, San Bernardino, CA
12. Silas Bolden, WR, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
13. Jake Overman, TE, Anaheim, CA
14. Cooper Darling, OG, Gilbert, AZ
15. Trevor Pope, ATH, Tracy, CA
16. Taliese Fuaga, OT, Tacoma, WA
17. Shane Kady, DE, Mililani, HI
18. Tommy Spencer, TE, Roseville, CA
19. Ron Hardge, CB, Fort Lauderdale, FL*
20. Tyler Morano, OT, Livermore, CA

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Peter Brouillet

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	28.0	103
Defense	30.0	85
Margin	**-2.0**	**101**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	45.2%	31
Defense	44.4%	90
Margin	**+0.8%**	**67**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.0	58
Defense	6.0	93
Margin	**0.0**	**80**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	5.6	1
Defense	4.7	89
Margin	**+0.9**	**24**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	2.2	47
Actual	10	10
Margin	**+7.8**	**9**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

0.7%

Oregon State did an excellent job protecting the football in 2019. Not only were the Beavers' six giveaways the fewest in the country, but OSU also led the nation on a per-play average. Just 0.7 percent of the Beavers' snaps resulted in a turnover.

84.62%

No one capitalized more on its red zone opportunities in 2019. Oregon State scored 33 touchdowns in 39 trips inside its opponent's 20-yard line last season, an 84.62 percent touchdown rate that led the nation.

9.64%

Oregon State was one of the least disruptive pass defenses in the country in 2019. The Beavers recorded eight interceptions and were credited with 32 pass breakups. Combined, Oregon State defended 9.64 percent of its opponents' passes, which ranked 11th in the Pac-12 and 126th nationally.

ing toward the upper half of Pac-12 defenses because of returning star power and emerging depth.

The defense's centerpiece is redshirt senior Hamilcar Rashed Jr., the outside linebacker who set OSU season records for sacks (14) and tackles for a loss (22.5) in 2019. Rashed broke his thumb with two games left in the season but still found a spot on the coaches' All-Pac-12 second team. The 6'4", 238-pound Rashed is the leader of a deep outside linebacker room that includes Oklahoma transfer Addison Gumbs.

Oregon State's inside linebacking crew is nearly as strong. Sophomore Omar Speights had a spectacular rookie year with 73 tackles, third among all freshmen nationally. Redshirt junior Avery Roberts, a Nebraska transfer, had a team-high 83 tackles in 2019. The Beavers are looking for big things from Jack Colletto, who also plays short-yardage and goal-line quarterback for the Beavers.

Up front, Oregon State has questions but is gaining talent. The Beavers are hopeful that redshirt senior Jordan Whittley can bounce back from nagging injuries a year ago. A juco transfer in 2019, the 325-pound Whittley was a run-stopping force and someone who could push the pocket on occasion. Junior Isaac Hodgins has started 23 of 24 games at defensive end.

Oregon State's secondary could be formidable if a few of the offseason signees contribute. There is returning talent, including redshirt juniors David Morris, who has 14 career starts at safety, and Jaydon Grant, son of former NBA star Brian Grant. Junior cornerback Nahshon Wright had a team-high three interceptions last season.

SPECIALISTS The kicking game has some experience. Sophomore Everett Hayes serves as the placekicker after taking over that job late last season. Senior Caleb Lightbourn, Nebraska's regular punter for three seasons before transferring in 2019, is expected take over for departing three-year punter Daniel Rodriguez.

FINAL ANALYSIS With a defense that should keep them in most games, the Beavers' bowl fate depends on the quarterback position. With 30 scholarship juniors, this is becoming a veteran team, one capable of advancing to the postseason either in 2020 or 2021.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (3)

WR	8	Trevon Bradford (Sr.)	5	Kolby Taylor (Jr.)
WR	16	Champ Flemings (Jr.)	15	Anthony Gould (Fr.)
WR	1	Tyjon Lindsey (Jr.)	13	Jesiah Irish (So.)
LT	**68**	**Brandon Kipper (Jr.)**	77	Jaelen Bush (Jr.)
LG	63	Korbin Sorensen (Sr.)	65	Onesimus Clarke (Jr.)
C	64	Nathan Eldridge (Sr.)	69	Nous Keobounnam (Sr.)
RG	**69**	**Nous Keobounnam (Sr.)**	55	Keli'i Montibon (Sr.)
RT	67	Joshua Gray (Fr.)	70	Jake Levengood (So.)
TE	84	Teagan Quitoriano (Jr.)	88	Luke Musgrave (So.)
QB	3	Tristan Gebbia (Jr.)	10	Chance Nolan (So.)
RB	**6**	**Jermar Jefferson (Jr.)**	20	B.J. Baylor (Jr.)

DEFENSE (6)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**99**	**Isaac Hodgins (Jr.)**	91	Jeromy Reichner (Sr.)
DT	50	Jordan Whittley (Sr.)	75	Evan Bennett (Fr.)
DE	96	Simon Sandberg (Jr.)	94	Tavis Shippen (So.)
OLB	**9**	**Hamilcar Rashed Jr. (Sr.)**	15	Addison Gumbs (So.)
MLB	**34**	**Avery Roberts (Jr.)**	40	Kyrei Fisher (Jr.)
MLB	36	Omar Speights (So.)	12	Jack Colletto (Jr.)
OLB	8	Matthew Tago (Jr.)	6	John McCartan (Jr.)
CB	**21**	**Nahshon Wright (Jr.)**	18	Alex Austin (Fr.)
CB	**23**	**Isaiah Dunn (Sr.)**	26	Jojo Forest (So.)
S	24	David Morris (Jr.)	7	Alton Julian (So.)
S	**3**	**Jaydon Grant (Jr.)**	16	Akili Arnold (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	35	Everett Hayes (So.)	**KR**	15	Anthony Gould (Fr.)
P	30	Caleb Lightbourn (Sr.)	**PR**	8	Trevon Bradford (Sr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jake Luton	358	222	2,714	28	3
Tristan Gebbia	**60**	**38**	**347**	**2**	**1**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Artavis Pierce	146	873	6.0	6
Jermar Jefferson	**142**	**685**	**4.8**	**8**
B.J. Baylor	**30**	**177**	**5.9**	**3**
Tyjon Lindsey	**8**	**71**	**8.9**	**1**
Calvin Tyler Jr.	**12**	**68**	**5.7**	**0**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Isaiah Hodgins	86	1,171	13.6	13
Noah Togiai	44	406	9.2	3
Champ Flemings	**32**	**457**	**14.3**	**3**
Artavis Pierce	23	169	7.3	1
Kolby Taylor	**22**	**219**	**10.0**	**1**

KICKING: **Everett Hayes, 2-3 FGs, 31 pts.**
TACKLES: **Avery Roberts, 83; Omar Speights, 73**
SACKS: **Hamilcar Rashed Jr., 14.0**
INTERCEPTIONS: **Nahshon Wright, 3**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE BEAVERS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP OREGON STATE

"They're going to be a surprise team very soon. Maybe not this season, but everything they're doing is interesting, and it really works for them. They were so awful a few seasons back, and now they're really quietly building a quality roster. The best way to describe it is that they're becoming the Pac-12's Kansas State. ... (Jonathan Smith) is a good coach and a quality human. He really values that community and wants to build something for the long term. ... They've got an Auburn transfer coming on the D-line to help a thin area. That's as good a plan as any. You aren't going to succeed trying to function like Oregon, or even WSU. ... The scheme is still (Chris Petersen's) Washington stuff; it goes back to Boise. Formations and shifts get everyone open. They'll have to find a quarterback late in camp; that could really hold them back in a shortened offseason. ... The defense is quietly better. They get a lot out of their linebackers, but they've been pretty bad against the run. They still have to get really creative here to compensate. ... The schedule is really hard for them; having the league mandate the extra game against a P5 really hurts the bowl chances for this program. They'll have to pull an upset somewhere, but this could be that kind of year for them."

STANFORD Cardinal

National Forecast: **54** · Pac-12 North Prediction: **4** · Projected Record: **6-6, 4-5 Pac-12**

Paulson Adebo

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: David Shaw
Record at School: 86-34 (9 years)
Career Record: 86-34 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Tavita Pritchard
Defensive Coordinator: Lance Anderson
Location: Stanford, CA
Stadium: Stanford Stadium (50,424)

KEY CARDINAL

WALKER LITTLE, OT A first-team All-Pac-12 selection in 2018, Little missed nearly all of the 2019 season due to an injury in the opener.

PAULSON ADEBO, CB Adebo was a first-team All-Pac-12 selection by the coaches each of the past two seasons.

SIMI FEHOKO, WR The 6'4" Fehoko had 22 receptions for 529 yards and six touchdowns in the final seven games.

KEY LOSSES

K.J. COSTELLO, QB Injuries ruined his 2019 season, but he was a second-team All-Pac-12 pick in 2018.

COLBY PARKINSON, TE Parkinson is expected to follow a long line of Stanford tight ends as successful NFL players.

CASEY TOOHILL, LB Toohill was a second-team all-conference performer last season after leading the team in sacks (8.0), tackles for a loss (11.5) and quarterback hurries (10).

RISING STAR

Stanford's second-leading rusher last year as a freshman and the top returning rusher, **AUSTIN JONES** averaged 5.0 yards per carry in 2019. He could put up big numbers behind an improved offensive line, and he may be the key to Stanford's success in 2020.

Stanford will play the unfamiliar role of underdog in 2020. The Cardinal suffered their first losing season since 2008 when they went 4–8 in 2019, and regaining championship form will be a challenge.

Besides the departure of several key seniors, several other important players left as graduate transfers, an ongoing issue for the Cardinal because admission to Stanford's graduate schools is extremely difficult.

Instead of starting the season ranked among the Top 25, as it has in each of the past nine seasons, Stanford will begin 2020 hoping to surprise some people.

"Nobody in their right mind is going to pick us to win the conference," coach David Shaw says.

OFFENSE Stanford has an adequate quarterback in Davis Mills and capable receivers, but the key question is this: Can the Cardinal provide a rushing threat?

Known for its time-consuming, power-running game through most of Shaw's reign, the Cardinal ranked 11th in the Pac-12 in rushing each of the past two seasons. That destroys everything Stanford wants to do offensively.

Injuries to offensive linemen had a lot to do with the running-game struggles, but the return of 2018 all-conference tackle Walker Little, who suffered a season-ending injury in the 2019 opener, along with second-team All-Pac-12 center Drew Dalman and tackle Foster Sarell give the Cardinal the basis of a productive offensive line.

However, it could have been better, as starters Devery Hamilton and Henry Hattis transferred away for their final seasons of eligibility.

Incoming freshman tackle Myles Hinton is one of 12 offensive line recruits Stanford signed the past two years, and he could be a factor in his first year.

Finding a capable running back is the concern. Austin Jones, the team's top returning rusher after gaining 227 yards last season as a freshman, has star potential, and he could be the key to Stanford's season.

The Cardinal might get immediate help from freshman back E.J. Smith, the son of Emmitt Smith.

If Stanford can run the ball effectively, the offense will be in good shape because the passing game has a chance to be outstanding. One of the nation's top-rated recruits in 2017, Mills started six games in 2019 as a result of K.J. Costello's injuries. His passing numbers were admirable, though the Cardinal were just 1–5 in his starts.

Every key receiver is back, except for tight end Colby Parkinson. Wide receiver Simi Fehoko might emerge as a star. The 6'4", 220-pound Fehoko showed dramatic improvement over the second half of last season and has the look of a big-bodied receiver in the mold of JJ Arcega-Whiteside. The Cardinal have so many experienced wide receivers that talented sophomore Elijah Higgins will have to fight for playing time.

DEFENSE Stanford had the makings of a decent defense for 2020 before the transfer bug hit the Cardinal.

Inside linebacker Andrew Pryts, the team's leading tackler last season, as well starting defensive end Jovan

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	William and Mary
Sept.	12	at Arizona
Sept.	19	USC
Sept.	26	at UCLA
Oct.	10	at Notre Dame
Oct.	17	Washington State
Oct.	24	at Oregon
Oct.	30	Oregon State
Nov.	7	at Washington
Nov.	14	Colorado
Nov.	21	at California
Nov.	28	BYU

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 4-8, 3-6 PAC-12

Aug.	31	Northwestern	W	17-7
Sept.	7	at USC	L	20-45
Sept.	14	at UCF	L	27-45
Sept.	21	Oregon	L	6-21
Sept.	28	at Oregon State	W	31-28
Oct.	5	Washington	W	23-13
Oct.	17	UCLA	L	16-34
Oct.	26	Arizona	W	41-31
Nov.	9	at Colorado	L	13-16
Nov.	16	at Washington State	L	22-49
Nov.	23	California	L	20-24
Nov.	30	Notre Dame	L	24-45

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	PAC-12	NATIONAL
Scoring	21.7 ppg	11	108
Rushing	105.5 ypg	11	123
Passing	262.4 ypg	4	37
Total	367.9 ypg	11	97
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	29.8 ppg	7	79
Rushing	150.8 ypg	7	58
Passing	279.5 ypg	9	121
Total	430.3 ypg	7	93
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
-1	-0.08	8	75

2020 RECRUITS

1. Myles Hinton, OT, Norcross, GA
2. E.J. Smith, RB, Dallas, TX
3. John Humphreys, WR, Newport Beach, CA
4. Levi Rogers, OG, Woodinville, WA
5. Connor McLaughlin, OT, Tampa, FL
6. James Pogorelc, OT, Chantilly, VA
7. Drake Metcalf, C, Bellflower, CA
8. Lukas Ungar, TE, Morristown, NJ
9. Tobin Phillips, DT, Fresno, CA
10. Brandon Jones, CB, Harbor City, CA
11. Benjamin Yurosek, TE, Bakersfield, CA
12. Bryce Farrell, WR, Westlake Village, CA
13. Casey Filkins, RB, Lake Oswego, OR
14. Omari Porter, CB, Auburn, AL
15. Alaka'i Gilman, S, Honolulu, HI
16. Lance Keneley, DE, Mission Viejo, CA
17. Silas Starr, WR, Portland, OR
18. Joshua Karty, K, Elon, NC
19. Logan Berzins, DT, San Diego, CA
20. Scotty Edwards, ATH, Salt Lake City, UT
21. Kiersten Lee, LB, Marietta, GA
22. Anson Pulsipher, ATH, Temecula, CA
23. Zephron Lester, DT, Middle Village, NY
24. Max Kalny, OG, Lenexa, KS
25. Bailey Parsons, LS, Gardendale, AL

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Peter Brouillet

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	26.7	124
Defense	28.7	45
Margin	**-2.0**	**102**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	41.1%	78
Defense	48.2%	125
Margin	**-7.1%**	**112**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.6	82
Defense	6.3	108
Margin	**-0.7**	**103**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.3	82
Defense	4.6	73
Margin	**-0.3**	**83**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-3.3	90
Actual	-1	69
Margin	**+2.3**	**45**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

16.35%

Stanford scored 26 offensive touchdowns in 2019, spread across 159 possessions. The 16.35 percent touchdown rate the Cardinal posted last year was the worst in the Pac-12 and ranked No. 126 nationally.

41.18%

Stanford struggled to score TDs in the red zone in 2019. The Cardinal punched it in 16 times in 34 red-zone opportunities last season, a 47.06 percent TD rate that ranked 10th in the Pac-12 and sat No. 119 on the FBS leaderboard. Stanford kicked 14 field goals inside the 20-yard line, a 41.18 percent rate that was second highest in both the conference and the country.

23.58

Receiver Simi Fehoko averaged 23.58 yards per reception as a sophomore in 2019, which ranked second nationally among players with at least 20 receptions.

Swann (5.5 sacks) and starting defensive tackle Michael Williams (6.0 tackles for a loss) all entered the transfer portal after last season and will not be back at Stanford.

The Cardinal also lost their big-play outside linebacker, Casey Toohill (8.0 sacks, 11.5 tackles for a loss), who was a fifth-year senior in 2019.

The one positive offseason news was that Stanford's best player, cornerback Paulson Adebo, opted to remain at Stanford rather than enter the NFL Draft. He is part of a secondary that should hold its own, but Stanford has serious concerns in its front three, with only defensive end Thomas Booker (4.0 sacks) being a proven performer.

The Cardinal must hope inside linebacker Ricky Miezan delivers on the promise he displayed before suffering a season-ending injury in the second game last season. He could join returning starter Curtis Robinson to form a formidable duo at the vital inside linebacker spots.

Ultimately the effectiveness of the Cardinal defense will depend on the success of the Stanford running game. In past years, Stanford's defense excelled in large part because it was not on the field a lot. The Cardinal finished seventh in the Pac-12 in scoring defense in 2019, a significant fall after never finishing worse than third from 2010 through 2017, when Stanford controlled the clock with its run game.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Jet Toner was a second-team all-conference pick in 2018 and was 12-for-16 on field-goal attempts in 2019, before missing the final five games with an injury. Punter Ryan Sanborn averaged 40.5 yards per punt as a freshman in 2019, with 18 inside the 20-yard line. Connor Wedington led the Pac-12 in kickoff returns last season, averaging 28.1 yards, and Michael Wilson was adequate as a punt returner, averaging 6.0 yards per return.

FINAL ANALYSIS Unless Stanford suffers another barrage of injuries, Shaw won't allow the Cardinal to drop as far as they did in 2019. But the Cardinal have too many questions on the defensive front and in the running game to suggest they will contend for a Pac-12 title. Stanford should get enough wins to land a bowl berth, and it will be a good bowl if Stanford re-establishes a productive running game.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (9)

WR	**4**	**Michael Wilson (Jr.)**	13	Simi Fehoko (So.)
WR	**5**	**Connor Wedington (Jr.)**	**9**	**Osiris St. Brown (Jr.)**
LT	**72**	**Walker Little (Jr.)**	**75**	**Walter Rouse (So.)**
LG	**63**	**Barrett Miller (So.)**	73	Jake Hornibrook (So.)
C	**51**	**Drew Dalman (Jr.)**	60	Drake Nugent (Fr.)
RG	66	Branson Braggs (Fr.)	**73**	**Jake Hornibrook (So.)**
RT	**79**	**Foster Sarell (Jr.)**		Myles Hinton (Fr.)
TE	80	Scooter Harrington (Sr.)	88	Tucker Fisk (Jr.)
QB	15	Davis Mills (Jr.)	10	Jack West (So.)
RB	20	Austin Jones (So.)	28	Dorian Maddox (Sr.)
FB	34	Houston Heimuli (Jr.)	24	Jay Symonds (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**34**	**Thomas Booker (Jr.)**	58	Dylan Boles (Jr.)
DT	50	Dalyn Wade-Perry (Jr.)	23	Ryan Johnson (Jr.)
DE	91	Thomas Shaffer (Sr.)	19	Joshua Pakola (Fr.)
OLB	**90**	**Gabe Reid (Jr.)**	35	Tobe Umerah (So.)
MLB	**2**	**Curtis Robinson (Sr.)**	14	Jacob Mangum-Farrar (So.)
MLB	45	Ricky Miezan (So.)	36	Tristan Sinclair (Fr.)
OLB	10	Jordan Fox (Sr.)	47	Tangaloa Kaufusi (So.)
CB	**11**	**Paulson Adebo (Jr.)**	31	Zahran Manley (So.)
CB	**17**	**Kyu Blu Kelly (So.)**	24	Nicolas Toomer (Fr.)
S	**3**	**Malik Antoine (Sr.)**	32	Jonathan McGill (So.)
S	**21**	**Kendall Williamson (Jr.)**	9	Noah Williams (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	26	Jet Toner (Sr.)	**KR**	5	Connor Wedington (Jr.)
P	11	Ryan Sanborn (So.)	**PR**	4	Michael Wilson (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Davis Mills	**241**	**158**	**1,960**	**11**	**5**
K.J. Costello	167	102	1,038	6	3
Jack West	**32**	**15**	**143**	**0**	**0**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Cameron Scarlett	201	840	4.2	7
Austin Jones	**45**	**227**	**5.0**	**1**
Dorian Maddox	**22**	**75**	**3.4**	**0**
Nathaniel Peat	**9**	**57**	**6.3**	**0**
Davis Mills	**32**	**44**	**1.4**	**0**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Michael Wilson	**56**	**672**	**12.0**	**5**
Connor Wedington	**51**	**506**	**9.9**	**1**
Colby Parkinson	48	589	12.3	1
Osiris St. Brown	**27**	**263**	**9.7**	**0**
Cameron Scarlett	25	240	9.6	0

KICKING: **Jet Toner, 12-16 FGs, 49 pts**
TACKLES: Andrew Pryts, 72; **Curtis Robinson, 64**
SACKS: Casey Toohill, 8.0
INTERCEPTIONS: **Paulson Adebo, 4**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE CARDINAL

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP STANFORD

"This is feeling like a program in decline. They need something to pull them out of the rut they've been in the last few years. I think it's really come down to the absence of bringing in game-changers at the big positions. It's been awhile since they've had an Andrew Luck or a Christian McCaffrey, or even a Kevin Hogan. … They haven't run the ball at all like themselves. The line was banged up and they didn't have a next guy up to replace (Bryce) Love. If you want to fix one thing, that's probably the most important. They have some talent at receiver, but they gotta run the ball better or none of it matters. … Defensively they just aren't the same. They're missing that level of talent at linebacker and on the line where they could get after you and shorten drives. … The transfer portal stuff is really alarming. That's supposed to be a positive, solid culture. The kids there are always a little bit more mature, a little bit more self-starters than the typical program. To have that many people leave is really telling. … David is a fantastic coach, and most of us figured he'd be in the NFL by now. The systems they use are really simple. Man to man, can you beat me? Who's stronger, who's smarter with their technique? … It's fair to give this staff the benefit of the doubt, but this year they have to get back to winning."

WASHINGTON Huskies

National Forecast: **34** · Pac-12 North Prediction: **3** · Projected Record: **8-4, 6-3 Pac-12**

Elijah Molden

Washington went 8–5 last season and was considered one of the nation's more disappointing teams. Rebuilding the defense was a bigger task than anticipated. Then Chris Petersen stepped down as coach, claiming burnout. Quarterback Jacob Eason and others departed early, seeking NFL riches.

It's up to Jimmy Lake, Petersen's in-house replacement and the team's former defensive coordinator, to pull the Huskies together. He's promised to increase the program's overall intensity level and has vowed to bring more of a free-wheeling style of play.

Lake's defense returns seven starters, including two first-team All-Pac-12 selections in cornerback Elijah Molden and defensive tackle Levi Onwuzurike, and it should be the Huskies' strength this season.

The biggest challenge will be finding a quarterback from a handful of candidates who watched Eason take nearly all snaps in 2019. Lake has to hustle, too — he and the Huskies open the season at home against Michigan.

OFFENSE It's fairly simple for this team: Quarterback play will make or break it. The Huskies will first turn to sophomore Jacob Sirmon, Eason's backup and a 6'5", 234-pound signal caller whose cousin Jackson is a UW linebacker and uncle Peter is the Cal defensive coordinator. Family history is one thing, but Sirmon doesn't have much of a game sample, making five brief appearances and throwing three passes. Dylan Morris, a redshirt freshman who has yet to appear in a game, is the alternative. Neither will match Eason's arm strength.

Washington returns just four offensive starters overall, but finding a new tailback and rebuilding the line should be seamless with talented players available. Sophomore Richard Newton, a physical runner, takes over at tailback after coming off the bench to score 11 touchdowns (10 rushing) in 10 games in his first season.

A two-year starter, 6'7", 323-pound junior Jaxson Kirkland is one of two returnees on the O-line and brings star quality. He moves to left tackle from right guard. He'll line up next to 6'5", 300-pound left guard Luke Wattenberg, a three-year starter. Guess which side the Huskies will run to the most? At center, 6'2", 312-pound freshman Myles Murao, one of the more heralded recruits, could claim a starting job right away.

The Huskies need a go-to receiver to step up and make the new QB's life easier. Wide receiver Puka Nacua — who started three games as a freshman, scored on his first career catch and went out with a broken foot — should be that guy if he can stay on the field. Juniors Terrell Bynum and Ty Jones both have 31-catch seasons on their résumés. Junior tight end Cade Otton, another honors candidate and a 23-game starter with 45 career receptions, is one of the league's best.

DEFENSE The Huskies went with 10 new defensive starters in 2019, and it showed at times. A freshmen-heavy secondary got victimized late in games, and inside linebacker speed was lacking. As painful as that

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Jimmy Lake
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: John Donovan
Defensive Coordinators: Pete Kwiatkowski, Ikaika Malloe
Location: Seattle, WA
Stadium: Husky Stadium (70,138)

KEY HUSKIES

ELIJAH MOLDEN, CB Molden led the team in tackles and interceptions and was named Las Vegas Bowl MVP and first-team All-Pac-12.

LEVI ONWUZURIKE, DT He got better as the season went on, finishing with 45 tackles and earning first-team All-Pac-12 honors.

RICHARD NEWTON, RB The physical runner didn't start but scored 11 touchdowns, 10 on the ground.

KEY LOSSES

JACOB EASON, QB In his lone season at Washington, he threw for 3,132 yards and 23 touchdowns.

NICK HARRIS, C He was one of the Huskies' more dependable players and was twice named first-team All-Pac-12.

HUNTER BRYANT, TE After two injury-shortened seasons, Bryant turned in a 52-catch, 825-yard, three-TD performance, earning him first-team All-Pac-12 honors.

RISING STAR

SAV'ELL SMALLS first ruled out Washington as a recruiting finalist, even though he was a local Seattle-area talent. The five-star outside linebacker changed his mind and signed with the Huskies. The question now is how long it will take for him to make an impact.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Michigan
Sept.	12	Sacramento State
Sept.	19	Utah State
Oct.	3	at Oregon
Oct.	10	Oregon State
Oct.	17	at Utah
Oct.	23	Arizona
Oct.	31	at California
Nov.	7	Stanford
Nov.	14	at USC
Nov.	21	Colorado
Nov.	27	at Washington State

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5, 4-5 PAC-12

Aug.	31	Eastern Washington	W	47-14
Sept.	7	California	L	19-20
Sept.	14	Hawaii	W	52-20
Sept.	21	at BYU	W	45-19
Sept.	28	USC	W	28-14
Oct.	5	at Stanford	L	13-23
Oct.	12	at Arizona	W	51-27
Oct.	19	Oregon	L	31-35
Nov.	2	Utah	L	28-33
Nov.	8	at Oregon State	W	19-7
Nov.	23	at Colorado	L	14-20
Nov.	29	Washington State	W	31-13
Dec.	21	vs. Boise State #	W	38-7

#Las Vegas Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	PAC-12	NATIONAL
Scoring	32.0 ppg	5	41
Rushing	147.8 ypg	7	84
Passing	243.4 ypg	9	57
Total	391.2 ypg	8	79
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	19.4 ppg	3	15
Rushing	126.4 ypg	5	28
Passing	222.2 ypg	3	56
Total	348.6 ypg	3	35
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
+8	+0.62	5	19

2020 RECRUITS

1. Sav'ell Smalls, LB, Burien, WA
2. Jalen McMillan, WR, Fresno, CA
3. Myles Murao, C, Santa Ana, CA
4. Ethan Garbers, QB, Newport Beach, CA
5. Roger Rosengarten, OT, Littleton, CO
6. Jacobe Covington, S, Scottsdale, AZ
7. Geirean Hatchett, OG, Ferndale, WA
8. Rome Odunze, WR, Las Vegas, NV
9. Sam Adams II, ATH, Sammamish, WA
10. Mark Redman, TE, Newport Beach, CA
11. Gaard Memmelaar, OG, Middleton, ID
12. Elijah Jackson, CB, Lawndale, CA
13. Makell Esteen, S, Lawndale, CA
14. Jay'Veon Sunday, RB, Waco, TX
15. James Smith, CB, Bellflower, CA
16. Sawyer Racanelli, ATH, Brush Prairie, WA
17. Carson Bruener, LB, Redmond, WA
18. Mason West, TE, La Habra, CA
19. Cooper McDonald, LB, Justin, TX
20. Samuel Peacock, OT, Gig Harbor, WA
21. Triston Brown, P, Brea, CA*
22. Jaden Green, LS, Mesa, AZ

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Sean Brown/CSM via AP

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	32.3	12
Defense	26.8	14
Margin	**+5.5**	**7**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	45.9%	22
Defense	40.6%	54
Margin	**+5.3%**	**34**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.8	62
Defense	5.1	29
Margin	**+0.7**	**32**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.7	54
Defense	4.1	27
Margin	**+0.6**	**32**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	1.6	51
Actual	8	18
Margin	**+6.4**	**16**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

7.02%

The Huskies recorded an abnormally low amount of pass breakups in 2019 (32), which, combined with 13 interceptions, works out to a 7.02 percent rate of passes defended in 2019. Only five FBS defenses (including three in the Pac-12) recorded a lower percentage of passes defended last year.

95.5%

Power Success Rate is the percentage of runs on third- or fourth-and-2 or less that result in either a first down or touchdown. Washington allowed a Power Success Rate of 95.5 percent — worst in the nation.

2.19%

The Dawgs surrendered just 10 pass plays of 30 yards or more in 2019 across 456 attempts — a rate of 2.19 percent that led the Pac-12 and ranked fourth in the country.

was, the Huskies have the reverse situation now with a veteran unit that looked dominant against Washington State and Boise State to close out last season.

Molden topped the Huskies in tackles with 79 and interceptions with four, and he earned Las Vegas Bowl MVP and all-conference honors. Tough and opportunistic, he's one of the league's elite players. Onwuzurike gets great leverage and is so active that he even blocked a punt.

Safeties Cam Williams and Asa Turner and corners Trent McDuffie and Kyler Gordon each earned starts as freshmen, and all except Turner earned some kind of all-conference recognition. They'll team with senior corner Keith Taylor, who's played in 39 games. This group should supply lockdown pass coverage.

Up front, Onwuzurike teams with senior DT Josiah Bronson. Manning the edges are senior Ryan Bowman and junior Joe Tryon, with the latter running exceedingly well for carrying a 6'5", 262-pound frame. Tryon and Bowman combined for 13.5 sacks, and both earned second-team All-Pac-12 honors.

The inside linebacker corps was a decided weakness until walk-on Edefuan Ulofoshio worked his way into the starting lineup for three games, was named Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Week for his effort against Oregon State and received a scholarship for his sophomore season. That other Sirmon, Jackson, will step into the starting job next to Ulofoshio.

SPECIALISTS Washington has a pair of placekickers on scholarship in junior Peyton Henry and sophomore Tim Horn. Horn was supposed to supplant Henry, but the veteran made 19-of-21 field-goal tries, leaving Horn and his bigger leg to handle kickoffs only for now. The Huskies brought in Triston Brown, considered the nation's No. 1 junior college punter.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Huskies have a new coach, a new quarterback and a new outlook to go with a lot of returning pieces. However, Lake's first team plays a brutal schedule. Besides hosting Michigan, UW travels to Oregon, Utah, USC and Washington State. Relying on defense, this squad should expect no more than a slight upgrade, maybe nine wins instead of eight.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (4)

WR	15	Puka Nacua (So.)	8	Marquis Spiker (So.)
WR	**4**	**Terrell Bynum (Jr.)**	20	Ty Jones (Jr.)
LT	**51**	**Jaxson Kirkland (Jr.)**	71	Nate Kalepo (Fr.)
LG	**76**	**Luke Wattenberg (Sr.)**	68	Ulumoo Ale (So.)
C	78	Matteo Mele (So.)	50	Myles Murao (Fr.)
RG	66	Henry Bainivalu (Jr.)	64	Gaard Memmelaar (Fr.)
RT	79	Victor Curne (So.)	77	Julius Buelow (Fr.)
TE	**87**	**Cade Otton (Jr.)**	86	Jacob Kizer (Sr.)
TE	37	Jack Westover (So.)	83	Devin Culp (So.)
QB	11	Jacob Sirmon (So.)	16	Dylan Morris (Fr.)
RB	6	Richard Newton (So.)	25	Sean McGrew (Sr.)

DEFENSE (7)

Returning Starters in Bold

DT	**95**	**Levi Onwuzurike (Sr.)**	91	Tuli Letuligasenoa (So.)
DT	**90**	**Josiah Bronson (Sr.)**	96	Jacob Bandes (Fr.)
OLB	**55**	**Ryan Bowman (Sr.)**		Sav'ell Smalls (Fr.)
MLB	48	Edefuan Ulofoshio (So.)	53	MJ Tafisi (So.)
MLB	43	Jackson Sirmon (So.)	14	Josh Calvert (Fr.)
OLB	**9**	**Joe Tryon (Jr.)**	13	Laiatu Latu (So.)
CB	**3**	**Elijah Molden (Sr.)**	23	Brandon McKinney (Sr.)
CB	**22**	**Trent McDuffie (So.)**	19	Kyler Gordon (So.)
CB	**8**	**Keith Taylor (Sr.)**	21	Dominique Hampton (So.)
SS	20	Asa Turner (So.)	11	Alex Cook (Jr.)
FS	16	Cameron Williams (So.)		Jacobe Covington (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	47	Peyton Henry (Jr.)	**KR**	25	Sean McGrew (Sr.)
P	32	Triston Brown (So.)	**PR**	25	Sean McGrew (Sr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jacob Eason	405	260	3,132	23	8
Jacob Sirmon	**3**	**2**	**19**	**0**	**0**
Aaron Fuller	1	0	0	0	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Salvon Ahmed	188	1,020	5.4	11
Richard Newton	**117**	**498**	**4.3**	**10**
Sean McGrew	**55**	**342**	**6.2**	**1**
Chico McClatcher	9	53	5.9	0
Malik Braxton	2	43	21.5	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Aaron Fuller	59	702	11.9	6
Hunter Bryant	52	825	15.9	3
Cade Otton	**32**	**344**	**10.8**	**2**
Terrell Bynum	**31**	**368**	**11.9**	**2**
Andre Baccellia	29	314	10.8	4

KICKING: **Peyton Henry, 19-21 FGs, 106 pts.**
TACKLES: **Elijah Molden, 79**; Brandon Wellington, 67
SACKS: **Joe Tryon, 8.0**
INTERCEPTIONS: **Elijah Molden, 4**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE HUSKIES

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP WASHINGTON

"This program is undergoing a drastic change behind the scenes. Jimmy Lake is technically a staff promotion, but this is not a move for continuity. It's night and day difference to where this is basically an outside hire. There's no Boise stuff left. ... They want to go out and sell a high-swagger, defensive team with a brand-new offense. ... No one is exactly sure what (offensive coordinator John) Donovan is going to install. One of his attributes at Vanderbilt and Penn State was that he could be really multiple. They're not going tempo, for sure. They want to serve the defense. ... Lake is opening up their recruiting, which is probably a good thing. If you look at UW's personnel during (Chris Petersen's) time, their best team was that playoff roster where he had a mixture of his guys and (Steve Sarkisian's) guys who had a harder edge to them, but it was his culture. The knock on UW, and I think this is how Lake landed the job, was that they became choir boys. They didn't play as mean. He wants to put all that attitude back in there, but the current roster won't jibe with all that. Does he turn the roster over, play a lot of newcomers? That could sink them for a while. ... This is the job every coach in the West is talking about. Everyone seems to think Jimmy's gonna blow this up big time; they're just not sure which direction."

WASHINGTON STATE Cougars

National Forecast: **61** · Pac-12 North Prediction: **6** · Projected Record: **6-6, 3-6 Pac-12**

Max Borghi

Mike Leach leaves behind a bundle of passing offense records, a string of five consecutive bowl appearances and shoes that'll be hard for his successor to fill. After eight years in Pullman, the "Pirate" has steered his ship to the SEC, but not before leaving Washington State's program in a significantly better place than where he found it.

The Cougars found his replacement on the sandy shores of Honolulu, hiring Hawaii's Nick Rolovich, who, like Leach, combines a polarizing personality with a potent passing offense. Rolovich won Mountain West Coach of the Year honors after leading his alma mater to a 10–5 record and instantly endeared himself to WSU fans when he cited how many days remained until the Apple Cup during an introductory press conference. COVID-19 wiped out spring camp, so the Cougars still haven't held an official practice with Rolovich, and they'll be in hurry-up mode to install his run-and-shoot offense when fall arrives. They're the only team in the Pac-12 without a returning snap at quarterback, and they desperately need to mend the defense after allowing 36.6 points per game in conference games last year.

OFFENSE Although they've had a quarterback selected in each of the last three NFL Drafts, the Cougars have lacked continuity at the position. It may finally bite them. The top three on the depth chart graduated, including record-holder Anthony Gordon, making WSU one of the country's least experienced teams under center.

Cammon Cooper, a redshirt sophomore once considered the country's 15th-ranked pro style high school QB, isn't short on natural ability, but he and strong-armed redshirt freshman Gunner Cruz needed spring ball to develop in Rolovich's system. That may not prove as challenging for incoming freshman Jayden de Laura, who won two state championships as a run-and-shoot QB for Honolulu powerhouse Saint Louis.

Junior running back Max Borghi is solid between the tackles and even better in the open field. He'll have more rushing opportunities in Rolovich's offense and should alleviate the pressure on the QB after accumulating more than 1,400 all-purpose yards and 16 TDs last season.

Leach bred some of the Pac-12's best receivers, and even as the top three graduate, what's left over is more than sufficient. The Cougars return three players — Tay Martin, Renard Bell and Travell Harris — who had more than 500 yards in 2019. Calvin Jackson Jr., coming off a redshirt year, and Jamire Calvin, who was injured last year, should also have opportunities to start.

The offensive linemen are accustomed to the Air Raid's wide splits and will have to adjust, but the group has 77 starts under its collective belt and returns two potential pros in tackles Liam Ryan and Abraham Lucas.

DEFENSE Things can't conceivably get much worse for a group that gave up 50 points in the second half of a 67–63 loss to UCLA last season and saw its defensive coordinator walk out just two weeks later. Still, fans need to be patient. A 4-3 base defense will take shape under new

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Nick Rolovich
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 28-27 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinators: Brian Smith, Craig Stutzmann
Defensive Coordinator: Jake Dickert
Location: Pullman, WA
Stadium: Martin Stadium (32,952)

KEY COUGARS

MAX BORGHI, RB The only running back in the nation with 500-plus yards both rushing and receiving; had 16 total TDs.

JAHAD WOODS, LB Defensive leader had 141 tackles, which tied for fifth most in a single season at WSU.

BLAKE MAZZA, K Lou Groza Award finalist connected on 18 consecutive field goals and finished 20-of-21.

KEY LOSSES

ANTHONY GORDON, QB In his lone year as a starter, he set Pac-12 single-season record for yards (5,579) and TDs (48).

EASOP WINSTON JR., WR Sure-handed "Z" receiver caught 137 passes for 1,624 yards and 19 TDs in two seasons.

BRANDON ARCONADO, WR Led Pac-12 in receiving yards per game (100.8) during a breakout season.

RISING STAR

JAYDEN DE LAURA could be the next great player to come out of Honolulu's Saint Louis High, a quarterback factory that has produced Tua Tagovailoa, Marcus Mariota and former WSU standout Jason Gesser. The four-star recruit is already familiar with Nick Rolovich's run-and-shoot offense as well.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3	at Utah State
Sept.	12	Houston
Sept.	19	Idaho
Sept.	26	at Oregon State
Oct.	3	California
Oct.	10	Utah
Oct.	17	at Stanford
Oct.	31	Arizona State
Nov.	7	at Colorado
Nov.	14	at UCLA
Nov.	21	Oregon
Nov.	27	Washington

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 6-7, 3-6 PAC-12

Aug.	31	New Mexico State	W	58-7
Sept.	7	Northern Colorado	W	59-17
Sept.	13	at Houston	W	31-24
Sept.	21	UCLA	L	63-67
Sept.	28	at Utah	L	13-38
Oct.	12	at Arizona State	L	34-38
Oct.	19	Colorado	W	41-10
Oct.	26	at Oregon	L	35-37
Nov.	9	at California	L	20-33
Nov.	16	Stanford	W	49-22
Nov.	23	Oregon State	W	54-53
Nov.	29	at Washington	L	13-31
Dec.	27	vs. Air Force #	L	21-31

#Cheez-It Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	PAC-12	NATIONAL
Scoring	37.8 ppg	1	11
Rushing	68.1 ypg	12	129
Passing	437.2 ypg	1	1
Total	505.2 ypg	1	7
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	31.4 ppg	8	93
Rushing	185.5 ypg	12	91
Passing	267.0 ypg	6	114
Total	452.5 ypg	10	111
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
-6	-0.46	10	100

2020 RECRUITS

1. Jayden de Laura, QB, Honolulu, HI
2. Alphonse Oywak, CB, Kent, WA
3. Joey Hobert, WR, San Juan Capistrano, CA
4. James McNorton, OT, Brentwood, CA
5. Marshawn Buchanan, ATH, Adelanto, CA
6. Jay Wilkerson, WR, Midlothian, TX
7. Fa'alili Fa'amoe, DE, Pago Pago, Am. Samoa
8. Moon Ashby, LB, San Jose, CA
9. Hunter Escorcia, S, Murrieta, CA
10. Justin Anderson, CB, Menlo Park, CA
11. Mike Pettway, WR, Alabaster, AL
12. Chau Smith, CB, Chicago, IL
13. Julian Ripley, OT, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
14. Marquise Freeman, DE, Cocoa, FL
15. Rodrick Tialavea, OT, Salt Lake City, UT
16. Cedrick Pellum, WR, Dallas, TX
17. Dylan Mayginnes, OG, Chandler, AZ
18. Devin Kylany, OG, Lake Stevens, WA
19. Nathaniel James, DT, Avon, IN
20. Gabriel Lopez, DE, Las Vegas, NV
21. Jackson Lataimua, S, San Mateo, CA
22. Justin Lohrenz, DE, Littleton, CO
23. Antonio Pule, DE, Modesto, CA*
24. Amir Mujahid, DE, Berkeley, CA*

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Peter Brouillet

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	29.9	59
Defense	29.0	60
Margin	**+0.8**	**58**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	54.5%	2
Defense	47.5%	120
Margin	**+7.0%**	**18**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	7.1	5
Defense	6.6	121
Margin	**+0.5**	**48**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	5.1	21
Defense	4.7	83
Margin	**+0.4**	**43**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-6.8	118
Actual	-6	100
Margin	**+0.8**	**57**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

20.6%

Defensively, Washington State forced opponents to go three plays and out in just 20.6 percent of drives in 2019, which was the worst rate of all Power 5 teams and tied with UTEP for the worst nationally.

41.25

Washington State struggled to get off the field defensively in 2019. Opponents gained an average of 41.25 yards per possession against the Cougars last season — not only the worst mark in the Pac-12, but also the worst among all P5 units.

14.84

The Cougs ran 14.84 offensive plays before scoring a touchdown last season, on average, which was the fastest rate in the Pac-12 and ranked No. 10 in the country.

coordinator Jake Dickert, whose Wyoming team allowed just 17.8 points per game last season — the second fewest in the Mountain West — and specialized in containing the run, a big weakness for the 2019 Cougars.

Returning starters Dallas Hobbs and Will Rodgers III will be trusted to anchor the interior defensive line positions, but the Cougars may need players like Willie Taylor III — a "Rush" linebacker last year — to grow more comfortable playing with a hand in the dirt.

Jahad Woods was one of the league's most productive linebackers last season with 141 tackles. His motor has never been an issue, but it's time for him to assert himself as a leader. Justus Rogers and Dillon Sherman are experienced linebackers who've spent three years flanking Woods.

Two years after the Cougars lost QB Tyler Hilinski, the team was rocked again in the offseason by the death of Bryce Beekman, a 13-game starter at free safety. The secondary members, led by nickel/safety Skyler Thomas and cornerbacks Derrick Langford and George Hicks III, will have Beekman at the forefront of their thoughts when the season opens.

SPECIALISTS Blake Mazza, a Lou Groza Award finalist last season, had the highest field-goal percentage in school history, making 20-of-21. Oscar Draguicevich III, a fellow Texan, watched his punts fly 45 yards on average, which would've ranked second in the conference if he had had enough punts to qualify. Harris, an elusive slot receiver, could handle both kickoff and punt return duties for a second straight year.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Cougars have a chance to come out of their nonconference schedule unscathed, and a 5–0 start may be feasible for a team that visits Oregon State and hosts Cal to open Pac-12 play. For that to happen, though, the transition from Air Raid to run-and-shoot will need to be smooth, a quarterback will need to emerge and the Cougars will have to show steady improvement on the defensive side.

Expectations in Pullman may not mirror those in Los Angeles, Eugene or Seattle, but Leach spent eight years raising the bar, and any season that doesn't finish with a bowl game is considered an unsuccessful one at WSU.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR	85	Calvin Jackson Jr. (Sr.)	83	Brandon Gray (So.)
WR	5	Travell Harris (Jr.)	6	Jamire Calvin (Jr.)
WR	**9**	**Renard Bell (Sr.)**	17	Kassidy Woods (So.)
WR	**1**	**Tay Martin (Sr.)**	13	Donovan Ollie (Fr.)
LT	**63**	**Liam Ryan (Sr.)**	75	Cade Beresford (So.)
LG	52	Jarrett Kingston (So.)	68	Jimmy Price (Jr.)
C	59	Brian Greene (Jr.)	77	Konner Gomness (Fr.)
RG	**65**	**Josh Watson (Sr.)**	61	Hunter Mayginnes (So.)
RT	**72**	**Abraham Lucas (Jr.)**	67	Seth Yost (Jr.)
QB	2	Cammon Cooper (So.)		Jayden de Laura (Fr.)
RB	**21**	**Max Borghi (Jr.)**	16	Deon McIntosh (Sr.)

DEFENSE (7)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	9	Lamonte McDougle (Jr.)	80	Brennan Jackson (So.)
NT	**98**	**Dallas Hobbs (Jr.)**	95	Ahmir Crowder (So.)
DT	**92**	**Will Rodgers III (Sr.)**	96	Cosmas Kwete (So.)
DE	**27**	**Willie Taylor III (Jr.)**	10	Ron Stone Jr. (So.)
OLB	**13**	**Jahad Woods (Sr.)**	41	Dillon Sherman (Sr.)
MLB	**37**	**Justus Rogers (Sr.)**	51	Hank Pladson (So.)
OLB	82	Travion Brown (So.)	45	Rocky Katoanga (Fr.)
CB	**18**	**George Hicks III (Sr.)**	35	Armani Marsh (Jr.)
CB	2	Derrick Langford (Jr.)	42	Halid Djibril (So.)
SS	**25**	**Skyler Thomas (Sr.)**		Phillip Powell (Sr.)
FS	1	Tyrese Ross (So.)	28	Chad Davis Jr. (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	40	Blake Mazza (Jr.)	**KR**	5	Travell Harris (Jr.)
P	94	Oscar Draguicevich (Sr.)	**PR**	5	Travell Harris (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Anthony Gordon	689	493	5,579	48	16
Gage Gubrud	13	10	89	1	0
Trey Tinsley	4	2	15	1	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Max Borghi	**127**	**817**	**6.4**	**11**
Deon McIntosh	**16**	**111**	**6.9**	**1**
Clay Markoff	**9**	**25**	**2.8**	**0**
Anthony Gordon	51	-20	-0.4	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Max Borghi	**86**	**597**	**6.9**	**5**
Easop Winston Jr.	85	970	11.4	11
Brandon Arconado	78	1,109	14.2	7
Dezmon Patmon	58	762	13.1	8
Renard Bell	**54**	**579**	**10.7**	**6**

KICKING: Blake Mazza, 20-21 FGs, 115 pts.
TACKLES: Jahad Woods, 141; Skyler Thomas, 72
SACKS: Will Rodgers III, 4.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Skyler Thomas, 4

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE COUGARS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP WASHINGTON STATE

"It's really hard to replace the intangibles that Mike Leach's system gives to a challenged program like Wazzu. The circumstances were just so right for Leach to be his weird self and be left alone to run his offense. ... (Nick Rolovich) doesn't have to be Mike Leach, but that's the blueprint for this program. It's the only thing that's going to keep them competitive. You walk out in pregame and it's this hodgepodge mess of dudes that don't look anything like a P5 team, and then the game starts and they're running free all over you because of how he schemed it. ... Rolo's offense is going to be TBD, especially with them losing spring camp. What got him the job is the work he did at Hawaii, constantly changing and adjusting their scheme to fit that roster. ... I don't think you're gonna see them line up in the I and try to rush for 400 yards. The concepts won't be Mike's but we're preparing for them to stress our secondary. ... It's a really inspired move by Pat Chun, the A.D. You have to assume they knew Leach would push hard for a job in the South, and they evaluated for a guy who might end up being his equal in abstract thinking. This is a hard job and it always will be. It's far from anything. Creative thinking is how you survive."

ARIZONA Wildcats

National Forecast: **76** · Pac-12 South Prediction: **5** · Projected Record: **4-8, 2-7 Pac-12**

Grant Gunnell

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Kevin Sumlin
Record at School: 9-15 (2 years)
Career Record: 95-58 (12 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Noel Mazzone
Defensive Coordinator: Paul Rhoads
Location: Tucson, AZ
Stadium: Arizona Stadium (50,782)

KEY WILDCATS

GRANT GUNNELL, QB He graduated high school with a Texas-record 16,108 career passing yards. The Wildcats need him to recapture that form as soon as possible.

DONOVAN LAIE, OL His sophomore year was not a step forward, but he's the club's top lineman.

JAMARYE JOINER, WR The one-time quarterback has emerged as a playmaker in both the passing and return games.

KEY LOSSES

J.J. TAYLOR, RB Taylor was the most reliable offensive player on the roster before jumping to the NFL a year early.

CODY CREASON, OL Until he was injured in October, Creason had played 43 consecutive games on the Arizona line, at multiple positions.

JACE WHITTAKER, CB Fifth on the team in tackles and second with three interceptions. He was the recognized leader of the secondary.

RISING STAR

Two-way senior grad-transfer **BRENDEN SCHOOLER** periodically started on both offense and defense at Oregon, making 89 tackles with four interceptions and becoming a special teams standout. He then switched to receiver and caught 41 passes for 477 yards in 2017 and '18.

The first 20 conference seasons of the 21st century have not been kind to Arizona.

The Wildcats lost more league games than any other Pac-12 team. They allowed more yards and more points than any conference opponent. They fired four coaches and extended their 0-for-forever streak of never getting to the Rose Bowl to 42 years. To add to the agony, the Wildcats averaged just 39,532 fans at Arizona Stadium last season, the smallest total since the facility was expanded in 1976.

Kevin Sumlin begins his third season in Tucson by losing half of his coaching staff; three were fired and two departed for what appear to be more secure jobs, at Oklahoma and Colorado. Spring practice was canceled after four workouts, leaving Sumlin with significant roster questions at every position except receiver, linebacker and quarterback.

"We're fighting, we're grinding," says Sumlin, whose contract runs through the 2022 season. "We knew this wouldn't be an easy fix."

Since Arizona won the Pac-12 South under Rich Rodriguez in 2014, the Wildcats have gone 15–30 in conference games. The available talent has been such that the Wildcats have produced just one first-team All-Pac-12 player over the last five years. That's the troublesome setting in which Arizona begins a new decade.

OFFENSE Sophomore quarterback Grant Gunnell, who shared the 2019 starting job with two-year starter Khalil Tate, is the most promising young player on the roster. He threw for 1,239 yards, completed 65.1 percent of his passes and was intercepted just once as a freshman. Though young, he is the unquestioned team leader.

If Arizona has a strength, it is Gunnell and his receivers. Brian Casteel, Jamarye Joiner, Boobie Curry, Stanley Berryhill III, Drew Dixon and Tayvian Cunningham combined to catch 153 passes in an otherwise sluggish 4–8 season. Grad transfer Brenden Schooler, from Oregon, is a valuable receiving asset. Offensive coordinator Noel Mazzone will be able to implement his system fully with Gunnell, a pocket passer.

Running backs Gary Brightwell and Michael Wiley played considerably in 2019 and are also considered go-to threats in the passing game.

Arizona's offensive line has a number of useful returning players, especially junior left tackle Donovan Laie, a two-year starter, and center Josh McCauley, who has started 22 games. The Wildcats are likely to open the season mixing and matching from among Paiton Fears, Robert Congel, Josh Donovan, Edgar Burrola and sophomore Jordan Morgan, who might be the club's future offensive line leader. Behind that group, depth is a concern.

DEFENSE The Wildcats have allowed an average of 34.0 points per game dating back to 2014, the league's highest average over that span. That number is likely to improve this season because of experience alone; 10 returning players have been full- or part-time starters. Beyond that, there are still many unknowns.

2020 SCHEDULE

Aug.	29	Hawaii
Sept.	5	Portland State
Sept.	12	Stanford
Sept.	19	at Texas Tech
Oct.	3	at UCLA
Oct.	9	Colorado
Oct.	17	USC
Oct.	23	at Washington
Oct.	31	Oregon
Nov.	7	at Utah
Nov.	21	at Oregon State
Nov.	28	Arizona State

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 4-8, 2-7 PAC-12

Aug.	24	at Hawaii	L	38-45
Sept.	7	Northern Arizona	W	65-41
Sept.	14	Texas Tech	W	28-14
Sept.	28	UCLA	W	20-17
Oct.	5	at Colorado	W	35-30
Oct.	12	Washington	L	27-51
Oct.	19	at USC	L	14-41
Oct.	26	at Stanford	L	31-41
Nov.	2	Oregon State	L	38-56
Nov.	16	at Oregon	L	6-34
Nov.	23	Utah	L	7-35
Nov.	30	at Arizona State	L	14-24

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	PAC-12	NATIONAL
Scoring	26.9 ppg	7	77
Rushing	174.0 ypg	3	52
Passing	266.1 ypg	3	35
Total	440.1 ypg	3	30
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	35.8 ppg	12	118
Rushing	181.6 ypg	11	88
Passing	289.8 ypg	11	126
Total	471.4 ypg	12	120
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
-3	-0.25	9	89

2020 RECRUITS

1. Frank Brown Jr., RB, Houston, TX
2. Jalen John, RB, Lake Oswego, OR
3. Regen Terry, DE, Florence, AZ
4. Dion Wilson Jr., ATH, Perris, CA
5. Will Plummer, QB, Gilbert, AZ
6. Khary Crump Jr., CB, Culver City, CA
7. Majon Wright, S, Fort Lauderdale, FL
8. Josh Baker, C, Eureka, MO
9. Derick Mourning, LB, Katy, TX
10. Edric Whitley, CB, Pflugerville, TX
11. Leif Magnuson, OG, Mississauga, ON
12. Woody Jean, OT, Deerfield Beach, FL
13. Roberto Miranda, TE, Berlin, Ger.
14. Dyelan Miller, WR, Peoria, AZ
15. Jabar Triplett, LB, Baton Rouge, LA
16. Shontrail Key, DT, Chicago, IL
17. Paris Shand, DE, Windsor, CT
18. Stacey Marshall, TE, Montgomery, AL*
19. Tyler Loop, K, Lucas, TX
20. Sam Langi, OL, San Francisco, CA*

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Peter Brouillet

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	25.0	129
Defense	32.2	118
Margin	**-7.2**	**128**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	42.4%	67
Defense	48.6%	127
Margin	**-6.2%**	**108**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.0	50
Defense	6.4	112
Margin	**-0.4**	**87**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.8	41
Defense	4.8	99
Margin	**+0.0**	**68**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-1.4	79
Actual	-3	85
Margin	**-1.6**	**83**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

11.92%

Only seven FBS defenses recorded a havoc rate lower than 12.0 percent in 2019. Arizona, which recorded either a tackle for a loss, pass breakup, interception, or forced fumble on just 11.92 percent of defensive snaps last season, ranked last in the Pac-12 and No. 124 in FBS.

3.8%

Passing downs include plays on second-and-8 or longer, and third- and fourth-and-5 or longer. The Arizona defense recorded a sack on only 3.8 percent of passing downs in 2019, which ranked 126th nationally and worst in the Pac-12.

33.3%

On a positive note, Arizona stopped opponents two-thirds of the time on fourth down in 2019. The Wildcats allowed just six fourth-down conversions in 18 opportunities last year, which was the best rate in the Pac-12 and ranked among the top five nationally.

New defensive coordinator Paul Rhoads, formerly the head coach at Iowa State, responded to a question about the depth of Arizona's defense by saying, "What depth?" Rhoads had to hire a totally new defensive staff, including 67-year old line coach Stan Eggen, who had been at New Mexico, and Andy Buh, who has coached at eight schools over the last 13 years.

The strength of Arizona's team is at linebacker. Seniors Colin Schooler and Tony Fields II are three-year starters. Senior Anthony Pandy emerged as a productive linebacker last season, and edge rusher Jalen Harris has been a significant contributor for two years.

New secondary coach Greg Burns will have to rebuild the safety position. After veteran Scottie Young Jr.'s decision to transfer, Burns will likely consider moving former Oregon receiver-safety Brenden Schooler to Young's position. Young was the fourth Arizona safety to transfer since 2019. The cornerback situation is much better; senior Lorenzo Burns is a two-year starter and sophomore Christian Roland-Wallace won a starting job late in the 2019 season. Sophomore Bobby Wolfe has been a capable nickel back.

The defensive line has finally added adequate size to compare with top Pac-12 programs. Trevon Mason, Myles Tapusoa and JB Brown broke into the lineup in 2019. Sophomore Kyon Barrs is expected to play a big role in the rotation.

SPECIALISTS Lucas Havrisik, who kicked 10 field goals last season, begins his senior year unchallenged for kickoff and field-goal duty. Kyle Ostendorp became a reliable punter at the end of the 2019 season. Cunningham, the fastest runner on the team, is expected to be the lead kickoff returner. Joiner, a former quarterback, developed into a strong punt returner last year.

FINAL ANALYSIS If Gunnell isn't productive, Sumlin's job security will be the top story at Arizona Stadium. The school would have to pay him a $5 million buyout if it fires him. The other quarterbacks on the roster don't appear ready for week-to-week competition in the Pac-12. Arizona's schedule is unforgiving, and that makes beating Hawaii in the opener and at least splitting against Stanford and UCLA in the first two league games almost essential to saving Sumlin's job.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (5)				
WR	**5**	**Brian Casteel (Jr.)**	86	Stanley Berryhill III (Jr.)
WR	10	Jamarye Joiner (So.)	11	Tayvian Cunningham (Sr.)
WR	8	Brenden Schooler (Sr.)	2	Boobie Curry (So.)
LT	**78**	**Donovan Laie (Jr.)**		Sam Langi (Jr.)
LG	**74**	**Paiton Fears (Jr.)**	70	Matthew Stefanski (So.)
C	**50**	**Josh McCauley (Sr.)**	**66**	**Robert Congel (Jr.)**
RG	56	Josh Donovan (Jr.)	63	Steven Bailey (Sr.)
RT	72	Edgar Burrola (Jr.)	77	Jordan Morgan (So.)
TE	81	Bryce Wolma (Sr.)	87	Stacey Marshall (Jr.)
QB	17	Grant Gunnell (So.)	4	Rhett Rodriguez (Jr.)
RB	23	Gary Brightwell (Sr.)	6	Michael Wiley (So.)

DEFENSE (7)				Returning Starters in Bold
DE	92	Kyon Barrs (So.)	12	JB Brown (Sr.)
NT	99	Myles Tapusoa (Sr.)	52	Aaron Blackwell (Sr.)
DT	**90**	**Trevon Mason (Sr.)**	19	Kwabena Watson (Fr.)
OLB	**49**	**Jalen Harris (Jr.)**	38	Dante Smith (So.)
MLB	**1**	**Tony Fields II (Sr.)**	14	Kylan Wilborn (Sr.)
MLB	**7**	**Colin Schooler (Sr.)**	27	Derrion Clark (So.)
OLB	**8**	**Anthony Pandy (Sr.)**	28	Jabar Triplett (Fr.)
CB	**2**	**Lorenzo Burns (Sr.)**	25	Bobby Wolfe (So.)
CB	**4**	**C. Roland-Wallace (So.)**	15	McKenzie Barnes (Jr.)
SS	8	Brenden Schooler (Sr.)	5	Christian Young (Jr.)
FS	3	Jarrius Wallace (Sr.)	24	Rhedi Short (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	43	Lucas Havrisik (Sr.)	**KR** 11	Tayvian Cunningham (Sr.)
P	19	Kyle Ostendorp (So.)	**PR** 10	Jamarye Joiner (So.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Khalil Tate	266	160	1,954	14	11
Grant Gunnell	**155**	**101**	**1,239**	**9**	**1**
Jamarye Joiner	1	0	0	0	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
J.J. Taylor	148	721	4.9	5
Khalil Tate	90	413	4.6	3
Gary Brightwell	**66**	**390**	**5.9**	**5**
Nathan Tilford	**37**	**228**	**6.2**	**4**
Dante Smith	**34**	**203**	**6.0**	**1**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Brian Casteel	**45**	**397**	**8.8**	**3**
Tayvian Cunningham	**35**	**383**	**10.9**	**2**
Jamarye Joiner	**34**	**552**	**16.2**	**5**
J.J. Taylor	32	289	9.0	0
Cedric Peterson	24	412	17.2	2

KICKING: **Lucas Havrisik, 10-17 FGs, 67 pts.**
TACKLES: **Colin Schooler, 98; Tony Fields II, 94**
SACKS: **Jalen Harris, 4.0**
INTERCEPTIONS: **Lorenzo Burns, 4**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE WILDCATS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP ARIZONA

"They're behind the 8-ball this season, no doubt about it. You look at the team on the field last year and their recruiting for this past year and next and you can't believe this is the (coaching) crew that beat Alabama and made all that noise in the SEC. ... It's a short list of positives, but the offense has a high ceiling, and they know how to run it. They're capable. They do a really good job from a scheme standpoint. Gunnell is a big talent. Can he save them by himself? He might have to. ... Defensively they were awful. (Paul) Rhoads is a meat and potatoes guy, a teacher. He's not going to be able to perform miracles, but you got the sense they were playing under their abilities because of communication and effort. ... They don't have the juice anymore. That was (Kevin) Sumlin's calling card, that ability to make waves in recruiting and get the kids fired up. That's not this program. They're flat, they don't have an identity and they're losing badly in marketing and recruiting to their in-state rivals. ... Recruiting wise, they can do well in Texas, but this league is built on California. They need to adjust their recruiting because they'll eventually die without making L.A. inroads. ... If they get injured early, especially at the skill positions, that's probably it for this staff."

ARIZONA STATE Sun Devils

National Forecast: **31** · Pac-12 South Prediction: **2** · Projected Record: **8-4, 5-4 Pac-12**

Jayden Daniels

In each of his two seasons as Arizona State's head coach, Herm Edwards has exceeded expectations, at least externally. But he's still not content. The Sun Devils have not won a Pac-12 South title under his direction, which Edwards regularly asserts to be their primary goal.

To that end, Edwards dismissed the team's offensive architect and two other assistants and hired new coordinator Zak Hill from Boise State to install a more adaptive scheme. He wants to capitalize on sophomore quarterback Jayden Daniels, one of the top first-year players in college football last season. "This is now his offense, and he gets that," Edwards said of Daniels. "He's in this building every day. He meets with me, our other coaches, is taking on more of a leadership role. He understands the team is built around him."

The Sun Devils will be different on defense as well after Edwards decided to transition to a more traditional 4-3 scheme following the departure of former coordinator Danny Gonzales to New Mexico, with former NFL head coach Marvin Lewis co-coordinating along with promoted assistant and ace recruiter Antonio Pierce.

With a maturing Daniels and a lot of defensive talent and experience returning, this is the first year outside voices are starting to discuss Edwards' Sun Devils as a legitimate contender in the division.

OFFENSE A lot of key offensive pieces have departed, including record-breaking running back Eno Benjamin and the nation's leading after-the-catch receiver, Brandon Aiyuk, both first-team All-Pac-12 performers.

Still, Daniels remains the centerpiece and should only be improved following a freshman season that included 2,943 passing yards with 17 touchdowns against just two interceptions, a stunning ratio for a true freshman.

Daniels will retain the benefit of one of the Pac-12's top big-play threats, senior wide receiver Frank Darby, the conference leader in yards-per-catch and touchdowns-per-reception last season.

The Sun Devils enrolled two highly regarded freshman running backs in January, Daniyel Ngata and DeaMonte Trayanum, and signed the best-regarded four-man wide receiver recruiting class in program history. Freshman slot receiver LV Bunkley-Shelton could be one of the league's top newcomers at the position.

In order to bolster the offensive line, ASU signed Texas A&M grad transfer Kellen Diesch and Stanford grad transfer Henry Hattis to plug in at left tackle and left guard, respectively. Sophomore Dohnovan West started at guard last season and was perhaps the unit's top player.

Hill's offense heavily incorporates tight ends and uses a lot of shifts, trades and motions to diagnose defenses before the snap. The scheme relies heavily on audibles and misdirection play-actions and requires more from the quarterback and receivers, who have to make adjustments on the fly. There could be some early hiccups as everyone assimilates, but Daniels has the type of improvisational playmaking skill to smooth it all out.

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Herm Edwards
Record at School: 15-11 (2 years)
Career Record: 15-11 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Zak Hill
Defensive Coordinators: Marvin Lewis, Antonio Pierce
Location: Tempe, AZ
Stadium: Sun Devil Stadium (53,599)

KEY SUN DEVILS

JAYDEN DANIELS, QB Daniels' passer rating ranked third among freshman QBs in Power 5 conferences.

FRANK DARBY, WR First in the Pac-12 in yards per catch among players with 25 or more receptions. Of his 31 catches, eight went for TDs.

JERMAYNE LOLE, DL Led all Pac-12 defensive linemen with 72 tackles, 10.5 of which were for a loss. Had a team-high 6.5 sacks.

KEY LOSSES

ENO BENJAMIN, RB Benjamin was the focal point of the rushing attack and produced back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons.

BRANDON AIYUK, WR Provided big-play potential on any type of route, an instant-offense generator who will be hard to fully replace.

KOBE WILLIAMS, CB Arguably the Pac-12's best pure cover corner in recent years, though he did not get enough credit outside the program.

RISING STAR

The highest-rated running back in Ohio last year, **DEAMONTE TRAYANUM** picked the Sun Devils over Michigan, Ohio State, Penn State and Wisconsin and showed up at ASU in January ready to handle a majority of the first-team reps in spring ball. He's an athletic 215 pounds.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3	Northern Arizona
Sept.	12	at UNLV
Sept.	19	BYU
Sept.	26	at USC
Oct.	3	Oregon State
Oct.	10	UCLA
Oct.	24	at Colorado
Oct.	31	at Washington State
Nov.	7	California
Nov.	13	at Oregon
Nov.	21	Utah
Nov.	28	at Arizona

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5, 4-5 PAC-12

Aug.	29	Kent State	W	30-7
Sept.	6	Sacramento State	W	19-7
Sept.	14	at Michigan State	W	10-7
Sept.	21	Colorado	L	31-34
Sept.	27	at California	W	24-17
Oct.	12	Washington State	W	38-34
Oct.	19	at Utah	L	3-21
Oct.	26	at UCLA	L	32-42
Nov.	9	USC	L	26-31
Nov.	16	at Oregon State	L	34-35
Nov.	23	Oregon	W	31-28
Nov.	30	Arizona	W	24-14
Dec.	31	vs. Florida State #	W	20-14

#Sun Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	PAC-12	NATIONAL
Scoring	24.8 ppg	9	96
Rushing	123.2 ypg	9	115
Passing	248.8 ypg	8	53
Total	372.1 ypg	10	94
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	22.4 ppg	5	35
Rushing	125.1 ypg	3	26
Passing	268.2 ypg	7	115
Total	393.3 ypg	5	67
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
+14	+1.08	2	6

2020 RECRUITS

1. Johnny Wilson, WR, Calabasas, CA
2. Daniyel Ngata, RB, Folsom, CA
3. Elijhah Badger, ATH, Folsom, CA
4. LV Bunkley-Shelton, WR, Gardena, CA
5. Jordan Banks, LB, Harbor City, CA
6. DeaMonte Trayanum, RB, Akron, OH
7. Omarr Norman-Lott, DT, Sacramento, CA
8. Chad Johnson Jr., WR, Los Angeles, CA
9. Joe Moore, DE, Saint Louis, MO
10. Caleb McCullough, LB, Oxnard, CA
11. D.J. Taylor, CB, Tampa, FL
12. T Lee, ATH, Buford, GA
13. Macen Williams, CB, Harbor City, CA
14. Edward Woods, CB, Oakland, CA
15. Will Shaffer, LB, Scottsdale, AZ
16. Daylin McLemore, QB, San Mateo, CA
17. Ben Bray, OT, Mesa, AZ
18. Jacob Nunez, OG, Lompoc, CA
19. Ryan Morgan, WR, Lompoc, CA
20. Jake Ray, TE, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Peter Brouillet

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	32.7	7
Defense	25.6	3
Margin	**+7.1**	**3**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	40.3%	89
Defense	42.9%	78
Margin	**-2.6%**	**90**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.7	73
Defense	5.5	54
Margin	**+0.2**	**64**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.0	109
Defense	4.6	79
Margin	**-0.6**	**107**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	13.2	2
Actual	14	8
Margin	**+0.8**	**54**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

0.59%

Jayden Daniels tossed two interceptions in 338 pass attempts in 2019, which is good for a 0.59 percent interception rate. Among FBS quarterbacks with 300 or more attempts, no one posted a lower interception rate.

1.54

The hard-hitting Sun Devils defense forced an average of 1.54 fumbles per game in 2019, which was highest mark in the Pac-12 and ranked No. 2 in the country.

44.44%

Arizona State kicked 21 field goals in the red zone in 2019 — which tied TCU for the most in the country. The Sun Devils settled for a field goal in 21 of 45 red zone opportunities last season and scored a touchdown just 20 times after reaching the 20-yard line. The 44.44 percent TD rate Arizona State posted inside the red zone was the lowest of any Pac-12 team.

DEFENSE The Sun Devils return a wealth of experience and talent at all three levels.

In the transition from a 3-3-5 to a pro-style 4-3, the Pac-12's leading returning defensive line tackler Jermayne Lole has moved inside from end to 3-technique tackle, where he can use his quickness against interior offensive linemen. Athletic junior Tyler Johnson, the team's best edge pass rusher, flirted with retirement in the offseason but is back and moving from linebacker to defensive end. Juniors D.J. Davidson and T.J. Pesefea form a very good two-deep at nose tackle for a unit that should be among the better run-stopping fronts in the Pac-12.

At linebacker, juniors Merlin Robertson and Darien Butler are two-year starters and among the team's top three returning tacklers. But Robertson admitted to slipping into a sophomore slump due to family distractions and a loss of focus and wants to step up his game.

There is as much talent in the secondary as there has been at any point recently, led by senior cornerbacks Jack Jones and Chase Lucas and safeties Evan Fields and Aashari Crosswell, all of whom are all-conference candidates.

Lewis and Pierce want to turn their players loose with more one-on-one opportunities across the board, from pass rushing to more man coverage behind it, and believe they're ready to become one of the Pac-12's top defenses.

SPECIALISTS ASU will have to replace one of the nation's best punters after Michael Turk declared early for the NFL Draft. Though he doesn't have a particularly big leg, junior placekicker Cristian Zendejas is very accurate, making 23-of-27 field goal attempts last season and all but one from inside 40 yards.

FINAL ANALYSIS Even with new schemes on both sides of the ball, it's hard to imagine the Sun Devils backsliding in 2020. They return a ton of experience on defense and a stabilizing force in Daniels at quarterback, a player who could well become one of college football's biggest names over the next two years. If he gets enough support from his offensive line and skill players, Daniels is the type of player who could lead ASU to challenge for the Pac-12 South title as soon as this season.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (4)

WR	**84**	**Frank Darby (Sr.)**	6	Geordon Porter (So.)
WR	19	Ricky Pearsall (So.)	2	LV Bunkley-Shelton (Fr.)
WR	5	Elijhah Badger (Fr.)	8	Jordan Kerley (So.)
LT	74	Kellen Diesch (Sr.)	76	Spencer Lovell (So.)
LG	55	Henry Hattis (Sr.)	50	Jarrett Bell (So.)
C	72	Cade Cote (Sr.)	66	Ben Scott (Fr.)
RG	**61**	**Dohnovan West (So.)**	66	Ben Scott (Fr.)
RT	**77**	**LaDarius Henderson (So.)**	76	Spencer Lovell (So.)
TE	88	Nolan Matthews (So.)	14	Johnny Wilson (Fr.)
QB	**5**	**Jayden Daniels (So.)**		Daylin McLemore (Fr.)
RB	1	DeaMonte Trayanum (Fr.)	4	Daniyel Ngata (Fr.)

DEFENSE (7)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	41	Tyler Johnson (Jr.)	97	Shannon Forman (Sr.)
NT	**98**	**D.J. Davidson (Jr.)**	44	T.J. Pesefea (Jr.)
DT	**90**	**Jermayne Lole (Jr.)**	9	Stephon Wright (Fr.)
DE	99	Amiri Johnson (Fr.)	91	Michael Matus (So.)
OLB	**8**	**Merlin Robertson (Jr.)**	9	Jordan Banks (Fr.)
MLB	**37**	**Darien Butler (Jr.)**	22	Caleb McCullough (Fr.)
OLB	34	Kyle Soelle (Jr.)	30	Elijah Juarez (So.)
CB	21	Jack Jones (Sr.)	6	Timarcus Davis (Jr.)
CB	**24**	**Chase Lucas (Sr.)**	1	Jordan Clark (Fr.)
SS	**4**	**Evan Fields (Sr.)**	3	Willie Harts (So.)
FS	**16**	**Aashari Crosswell (Jr.)**	12	Kejuan Markham (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	45	Cristian Zendejas (Jr.)	**KR**	6	Geordon Porter (So.)
P	14	Jack Luckhurst (Fr.)	**PR**	85	Brandon Pierce (Sr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jayden Daniels	**338**	**205**	**2,943**	**17**	**2**
Joey Yellen	44	28	292	4	2

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Eno Benjamin	253	1,083	4.3	10
Jayden Daniels	**125**	**355**	**2.8**	**3**
A.J. Carter	**19**	**50**	**2.6**	**0**
Isaiah Floyd	11	47	4.3	0
Kyle Williams	13	46	3.5	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Brandon Aiyuk	65	1,192	18.3	8
Kyle Williams	45	482	10.7	2
Eno Benjamin	42	347	8.3	2
Frank Darby	**31**	**616**	**19.9**	**8**
Tommy Hudson	10	112	11.2	0

KICKING: **Cristian Zendejas, 23-27 FGs, 98 pts.**
TACKLES: **Darien Butler, 88; Evan Fields, 84**
SACKS: **Jermayne Lole, 6.5**
INTERCEPTIONS: Jalen Jones, 3

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE SUN DEVILS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP ARIZONA STATE

"They're ultra aggressive right now. That's the best way to describe them. So far the Herm (Edwards) experiment has really worked out for them. They've overhauled how they recruit and message their program. It's a minor-league NFL experience. Come here, come to this exciting city, and NFL coaches will get you ready for the league. … They were really smart in how they used (Jayden) Daniels last year. He's not the biggest guy, so they were selective in how they put him out there. They protected him really well, and when he has a clean pocket, he can kill you. He has great vision. Ask Oregon. They're losing some guys, but the skill position turnover might be better for them. They've got some monsters coming in. … (Zak) Hill needs to match with what Daniels can do. I think what people don't realize is that most Boise guys are about multiplicity and being flexible for your personnel. So none of what Boise ran really fits everything Daniels can do, but it's not going to be a carbon copy. … How long will Herm be around? We're still asking if this is a five-year project. No one really sees him there for 10 years. Players just need to know the program is serious. … Right now they still don't have the raw talent of a USC, but they're closing the gap. They're the most exciting team in an otherwise flat division."

COLORADO Buffaloes

National Forecast: **94** · Pac-12 South Prediction: **6** · Projected Record: **3-9, 1-8 Pac-12**

Alex Fontenot

Mel Tucker's sudden and shocking departure to Michigan State in February put the Buffaloes in a bind. Karl Dorrell was hired less than two weeks later — about two months after most teams made a change — and it wasn't a hire that wowed anyone. Then, less than three weeks after he was hired, and just a few days after he completed the assembly of his coaching staff, the sports world shut down because of COVID-19. CU went into the summer without the staff having ever spent time on the field with the players.

Despite the challenges, CU's administration believes Dorrell is the right fit. He took UCLA to five bowls in five seasons in his only other head coaching job, from 2003-07. He also has deep ties to CU, as he coached six seasons in Boulder during the 1990s. Dorrell didn't make any excuses for the unique challenges. Instead, he emphasized getting to know his team as much as possible, and his calm, mature approach has been welcomed.

"We have a lot of work to do and we've got some ground to make up, but … their attitude is right about what they want, what their desires are, what they're shooting for," Dorrell says. "We're going to ride that and stress them and put them in tough situations to get ready to play."

OFFENSE Dorrell has more than 30 years of experience coaching offense, and Darrin Chiaverini returns to the coordinator role. The influence of both will be evident as they develop a multiple attack. CU wants to go fast and emphasize the pass but also be effective when slowing down and utilizing the run game.

Of course, Dorrell says, "It starts with a quarterback." That's where not having spring practices hurts the Buffs, as they are trying to replace three-year starter Steven Montez. Junior Tyler Lytle was the top backup last year, knows the offense and the personnel and has become a leader, but he's thrown only six career passes. True freshman Brendon Lewis is a pass-first dual threat who enrolled early and has already set quarterback weight room records. Senior Sam Noyer has the most game experience, with 41 career passes. Noyer moved to safety last year, entered the transfer portal in the winter and decided to stay when offered a chance to return to quarterback. Lytle might be the favorite to start, but the competition will be wide open.

At running back, Alex Fontenot and Jaren Mangham formed a good 1-2 punch last year, but true freshman Ashaad Clayton could get into the mix as well. At receiver, K.D. Nixon has a lot of versatility, Daniel Arias has star potential, Dimitri Stanley is a threat in the slot and La'Vontae Shenault, younger brother of Laviska Shenault Jr., is an exceptional talent in his own right. CU also has one of the better tight ends in the Pac-12 in junior Brady Russell.

Two starters return to the offensive line, which is developing good, young talent. The group is led by tackle William Sherman, center/guard Colby Pursell and guard Kary Kutsch.

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Karl Dorrell
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 35-27 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Darrin Chiaverini
Defensive Coordinator: Tyson Summers
Location: Boulder, CO
Stadium: Folsom Field (50,183)

KEY BUFFALOES

ALEX FONTENOT, RB Second among Pac-12 returners with 79.5 rushing yards per game in 2019.

NATE LANDMAN, LB The unquestioned leader of the defense, he's a hard hitter who has racked up 219 tackles in the past two seasons.

K.D. NIXON, WR Posted modest numbers as a junior (35 catches for 465 yards) but has exceptional ability to be a versatile weapon on offense.

KEY LOSSES

STEVEN MONTEZ, QB Started every game the past three years and set 37 school records, including career passing yards (9,710) and touchdown passes (63).

LAVISKA SHENAULT JR., WR The most dynamic CU player in years, he posted 2,051 rushing and receiving yards and 17 TDs the last two years.

DAVION TAYLOR, LB Late bloomer dramatically improved in his two seasons at CU.

RISING STAR

Junior receiver **DANIEL ARIAS** has impressed coaches and teammates in practice the past two years. He's waited his turn behind talented veterans while posting four career catches for 99 yards and two touchdowns. He will have the opportunity to be a top weapon in the offense this year.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at Colorado State
Sept.	12	Fresno State
Sept.	19	at Texas A&M
Sept.	26	Oregon
Oct.	9	at Arizona
Oct.	17	UCLA
Oct.	24	Arizona State
Oct.	31	at USC
Nov.	7	Washington State
Nov.	14	at Stanford
Nov.	21	at Washington
Nov.	28	Utah

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 5-7, 3-6 PAC-12

Aug.	30	vs. Colorado State #		W	52-31
Sept.	7	Nebraska	(ot)	W	34-31
Sept.	14	Air Force	(ot)	L	23-30
Sept.	21	at Arizona State		W	34-31
Oct.	5	Arizona		L	30-35
Oct.	11	at Oregon		L	3-45
Oct.	19	at Washington State		L	10-41
Oct.	25	USC		L	31-35
Nov.	2	at UCLA		L	14-31
Nov.	9	Stanford		W	16-13
Nov.	23	Washington		W	20-14
Nov.	30	at Utah		L	15-45

#Denver

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	PAC-12	NATIONAL
Scoring	23.5 ppg	10	100
Rushing	150.3 ypg	5	79
Passing	238.2 ypg	10	61
Total	388.5 ypg	9	83
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	31.8 ppg	9	96
Rushing	153.6 ypg	8	61
Passing	288.3 ypg	10	123
Total	441.9 ypg	8	104
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
+3	+0.25	6	43

2020 RECRUITS

1. Ashaad Clayton, RB, New Orleans, LA
2. Jason Harris, DE, Gilbert, AZ
3. Christian Gonzalez, S, The Colony, TX
4. Brenden Rice, WR, Chandler, AZ
5. Brendon Lewis, QB, Melissa, TX
6. Jake Wray, OT, Marietta, GA
7. Caleb Fauria, TE, Attleboro, MA
8. Jordan Berry, DT, Harbor City, CA
9. Mister Williams, LB, Westlake Village, CA
10. Devin Grant, DE, San Antonio, TX
11. Carson Lee, C, Englewood, CO
12. Toren Pittman, LB, Frisco, TX
13. Montana Lemonious-Craig, ATH, Inglewood, CA
14. Guy Thomas, LB, Miami, FL*
15. Alvin Williams, DE, Ellenwood, GA
16. Keith Miller III, WR, The Colony, TX
17. Chris Carpenter, WR, Jacksonville, TX
18. Justin Jackson, DE, Olive Branch, MS*
19. Jaylen Striker, CB, Tampa, FL*
20. Will Anglen, S, Cleveland, OH
21. Josh Watts, P, Hobart, Aus.
22. Gerad Christian-Lichtenhan, OT, Davis, CA
23. Louis Passarello, TE, Palo Alto, CA
24. Jayle Stacks, RB, Englewood, CO

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247SportsComposite

Tim Clark

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	28.3	98
Defense	28.2	37
Margin	**+0.1**	**68**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	43.9%	46
Defense	48.3%	126
Margin	**-4.4%**	**101**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.5	87
Defense	6.5	113
Margin	**-1.0**	**115**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.4	80
Defense	4.8	101
Margin	**-0.4**	**98**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	3.9	33
Actual	3	43
Margin	**-0.9**	**75**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

46.51%

Colorado scored just 20 touchdowns in 43 trips to the red zone in 2019. The 46.51 percent touchdown rate inside the 20-yard line was the second worst in the Pac-12 and ranked No. 122 in the country.

13.13%

Colorado recorded either a tackle for a loss, a pass defended or a forced fumble on just 13.13 percent of its defensive snaps last season, which was the second-lowest havoc rate in the Pac-12 and ranked 117th in the country.

7.27%

Specifically, the Buffs struggled to stuff the run. Colorado recorded a tackle for a loss on just 7.27 percent of its opponents' rushing attempts last season (not including sacks), which was the lowest rate in the Pac-12 and ranked No. 122 in the country.

DEFENSE Dorrell retained coordinator Tyson Summers, and that should provide continuity for a group that got better as 2019 went along.

The Buffs run a base 3-4 defense, but they'll look to add more four-man fronts. Ends Mustafa Johnson and Terrance Lang and nose tackle Jalen Sami return as starters. CU didn't lose anyone up front who played last year and added to the depth. A wild card is Antonio Alfano, the nation's top recruit in the 2019 class who signed with Alabama but transferred to CU over the winter. In the spring, he was suspended for violating team rules. If he plays, he should make the Buffs much better up front.

The unquestioned leader is inside linebacker Nate Landman, a hard hitter who has led the team in tackles the past two years. Inside linebackers Akil Jones and Jon Van Diest and outside linebacker Carson Wells also return after starting several games last year.

In the secondary, cornerbacks Mekhi Blackmon and Chris Miller are returning from injuries and have starting experience. Corner K.J. Trujillo and safety Derrion Rakestraw were regular starters last year, and Mark Perry is an emerging playmaker at safety or the hybrid Star position. If healthy, it's a solid group.

SPECIALISTS Senior James Stefanou had offseason surgery to fix a nagging hip injury that's bothered him for two years. He is 34-of-47 on field-goal attempts for his career and has elite ability. Australian Josh Watts, who signed in December, takes over at punter after four-year starter Alex Kinney graduated.

FINAL ANALYSIS Tucker brought some excitement back to the program and seemingly had the Buffs going in the right direction. However, last year was the Buffs' third consecutive 5–7 season — even with a veteran QB and a star receiver. There's now a new head coach, new quarterback, Laviska Shenault Jr. is gone and the Buffs didn't get to go through spring practices. Dorrell says the players are frustrated with how the last three years have played out, and "they're ambitious" to turn things around, but the odds are certainly against the Buffs. They've played in just one bowl game in the last 12 years, and it's going to be a tough climb to get to the postseason this year.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR	22	Daniel Arias (Jr.)	5	La'Vontae Shenault (Fr.)
WR	**3**	**K.D. Nixon (Sr.)**	13	Maurice Bell (Jr.)
WR	**14**	**Dimitri Stanley (So.)**	10	Jaylon Jackson (Jr.)
LT	**78**	**William Sherman (Jr.)**	71	Valentin Senn (Fr.)
LG	**58**	**Kary Kutsch (Sr.)**	64	Austin Johnson (Fr.)
C	65	Colby Pursell (Jr.)	52	Joshua Jynes (So.)
RG	54	Kanan Ray (So.)	70	Casey Roddick (So.)
RT	76	Frank Fillip (So.)	74	Chance Lytle (Jr.)
TE	**38**	**Brady Russell (Jr.)**	25	Luke Stillwell (So.)
QB	7	Tyler Lytle (Jr.)	12	Brendon Lewis (Fr.)
RB	**8**	**Alex Fontenot (Jr.)**	1	Jaren Mangham (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**34**	**Mustafa Johnson (Sr.)**	94	Janaz Jordan (Jr.)
NT	**99**	**Jalen Sami (So.)**	55	Austin Williams (So.)
DE	**54**	**Terrance Lang (Jr.)**	91	Na'im Rodman (So.)
OLB	**26**	**Carson Wells (Jr.)**		Jason Harris (Fr.)
MLB	**53**	**Nate Landman (Sr.)**	7	Marvin Ham II (Fr.)
MLB	36	Akil Jones (Sr.)	31	Jonathan Van Diest (Jr.)
OLB	1	Guy Thomas (Jr.)	4	Jamar Montgomery (Jr.)
CB	14	Chris Miller (Jr.)	25	Mekhi Blackmon (Jr.)
CB	**17**	**K.J. Trujillo (So.)**	16	Tarik Luckett (So.)
SS	**3**	**Derrion Rakestraw (Sr.)**	2	Jaylen Striker (So.)
FS	5	Mark Perry (So.)	23	Isaiah Lewis (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	48	James Stefanou (Sr.)	**KR**	3	K.D. Nixon (Sr.)
P	89	Josh Watts (Jr.)	**PR**	14	Dimitri Stanley (So.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Steven Montez	405	255	2,808	17	10
K.D. Nixon	**1**	**1**	**38**	**1**	**0**
Blake Stenstrom	**3**	**1**	**12**	**0**	**1**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Alex Fontenot	**185**	**874**	**4.7**	**5**
Jaren Mangham	**107**	**441**	**4.1**	**3**
Laviska Shenault Jr.	23	161	7.0	2
Steven Montez	65	153	2.4	3
Deion Smith	**23**	**68**	**3.0**	**0**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Laviska Shenault Jr.	56	764	13.6	4
Tony Brown	56	707	12.6	5
K.D. Nixon	**35**	**465**	**13.3**	**3**
Dimitri Stanley	**29**	**312**	**10.8**	**2**
Alex Fontenot	**27**	**122**	**4.5**	**0**

KICKING: **James Stefanou, 12-17 FGs, 62 pts.**
TACKLES: **Nate Landman, 113**; Davion Taylor, 72
SACKS: **Terrance Lang, 5.5**
INTERCEPTIONS: Mikial Onu, 4

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE BUFFALOES

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP COLORADO

"These guys got absolutely punched in the face by the coaching carousel. To have that much heat going after one year with Mel Tucker and have him leave so late in the cycle, and to hire a failed former conference coach? This is a massive setback for the program, and it's hard to see how they can rebound from this. … Mel had just started to untangle some of their problems, but they were full speed ahead, especially in recruiting. We would 'feel' them out in recruiting in places Colorado had never been. Their problem since they joined the Pac-12 is that they still want to build a roster in Texas and pick scraps in California. You're in the Pac-12 now; you have to reverse that. You don't have any brand identity in Texas. The previous staff started to turn that around. It was basically as wide a net as they could cast. They had offers out on everyone. … How are you going to sell Karl Dorrell? How does that work? He had an unsuccessful run at UCLA. Every coach in the league is going to use that against them. … With the shortened offseason, I think they should stick with as much of what was working for them with Mel. He kept three or four of Mel's guys on staff for that reason. They'll try to get through this year with more or less the same systems and then make his changes in the next offseason."

UCLA Bruins

National Forecast: **55** · Pac-12 South Prediction: **4** · Projected Record: **6-6, 3-6 Pac-12**

Demetric Felton

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Chip Kelly
Record at School: 7-17 (2 years)
Career Record: 53-24 (6 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Justin Frye
Defensive Coordinator: Jerry Azzinaro
Location: Los Angeles, CA
Stadium: Rose Bowl (91,136)

KEY BRUINS

DORIAN THOMPSON-ROBINSON, QB Dual-threat sparked a 32-point second-half comeback win over Washington State last year with seven total touchdowns.

DEMETRIC FELTON, RB Mr. Versatility scored TDs of 75-plus yards via rush, reception and return in 2019.

OSA ODIGHIZUWA, DE Led team in tackles for a loss (10) and showed he could rush the passer (3.5 sacks) from both inside and outside.

KEY LOSSES

JOSHUA KELLEY, RB Put together back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons and earned second-team All-Pac-12 honors as the Bruins' bell cow.

DARNAY HOLMES, CB No. 1 corner hauled in eight career interceptions (including two pick-sixes) while providing a big spark in the return game.

CHRISTAPHANY MURRAY, OL Versatile guard/center hit the transfer portal after starting all 24 games the past two seasons.

RISING STAR

Far and away UCLA's highest-rated recruit in 2020, edge rusher **DAMIAN SELLERS** landed in Westwood despite a host of national powers in hot pursuit. He is expected to immediately crack the two-deep and will be counted on to help boost a lackluster pass rush off the edge.

Hard as it is to believe when looking at the final 4–8 record, there was a point in November when UCLA controlled its fate in the Pac-12. While that said plenty about the muddled division race, it also was viewed as the sign of life that many were hoping to see when former wunderkind Chip Kelly was hired as head coach.

Alas, it soon became clear that the team's destiny was not to compete last year — much less make it to a bowl game. The "Baby Bruins" didn't grow up so much as show a few, fleeting flashes. Overall progress was modest at best.

Such is the backdrop for a significantly turned-over roster as pressure mounts on the coaches to show improvement. UCLA's destiny may still be to compete for the league title. Or it could simply be to play out the string at a sparsely attended Rose Bowl. Where the program lies on the food chain will be easily determined during a critical campaign that looms as a tone-setter for the rest of the head coach's tenure.

OFFENSE Though many expected a Year Two leap under Kelly, the truth was somewhat more muddled on offense. The Bruins scored a bit more (26.7 ppg) and converted third downs better, but otherwise they regressed in key areas. One can partly blame inexperience and injuries, but the bottom line was there was inconsistency across the board.

Hoping to lead the way is third-year starter Dorian Thompson-Robinson. The dual-threat QB was supposed to be an ideal triggerman in Kelly's system but has so far been unable to display the kind of accuracy (career 59 percent, 28:16 TD/INT ratio) needed. For the team to get over the hump and become a consistent offensive threat, it will need more out of the most important position on the field. If "DTR" can't do that, then former Washington transfer Colson Yankoff might get the nod behind center.

Taking the load off the QB is another open-ended question, especially without spring practices to evaluate things. Demetric Felton is the leading returning rusher but is a converted receiver who is best lining up all over the field. There's hope that Duke grad transfer Brittain Brown can turn into a backfield bell-cow, but he is returning from a season-ending shoulder injury, so it might be on Kazmeir Allen to showcase his career 5.8 yards-per-carry average (in limited opportunities) more consistently.

One strength could be a solid receiving corps. Slot man Kyle Philips set a school record for catches (60) by a freshman. Junior Chase Cota provides size on the outside, while Jaylen Erwin has a chance to develop into a go-to guy. Four-star recruit Logan Loya enrolled early, and 6'5" redshirt freshman Charles Njoku may be in line to see plenty of action as well.

Up front, the offensive line remains a jumble. Jake Burton and Sean Rhyan are solid building blocks at tackle, while Duke Clemens figures to float between starting guard and center. After that, question marks abound. The team could very well have two converted defensive linemen play prominent roles.

2020 SCHEDULE

Aug.	29	New Mexico State
Sept.	5	at Hawaii
Sept.	19	at San Diego State
Sept.	26	Stanford
Oct.	3	Arizona
Oct.	10	at Arizona State
Oct.	17	at Colorado
Oct.	29	Utah
Nov.	7	at Oregon State
Nov.	14	Washington State
Nov.	21	USC
Nov.	27	at California

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 4-8, 4-5 PAC-12

Aug.	29	at Cincinnati	L	14-24
Sept.	7	San Diego State	L	14-23
Sept.	15	Oklahoma	L	14-48
Sept.	21	at Washington State	W	67-63
Sept.	28	at Arizona	L	17-20
Oct.	5	Oregon State	L	31-48
Oct.	17	at Stanford	W	34-16
Oct.	26	Arizona State	W	42-32
Nov.	2	Colorado	W	31-14
Nov.	16	at Utah	L	3-49
Nov.	23	at USC	L	35-52
Nov.	30	California	L	18-28

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	PAC-12	NATIONAL
Scoring	26.7 ppg	8	80
Rushing	150.2 ypg	6	81
Passing	255.5 ypg	6	42
Total	405.7 ypg	7	65
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	34.8 ppg	11	116
Rushing	145.5 ypg	6	52
Passing	310.8 ypg	12	129
Total	456.3 ypg	11	113
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
-8	-0.67	11	113

2020 RECRUITS

1. Damian Sellers, OLB, Scottsdale, AZ
2. Parker McQuarrie, QB, Concord, NH
3. Logan Loya, WR, Bellflower, CA
4. Jonathan Vaughns, LB, Bellflower, CA
5. John Humphrey, CB, Pasadena, CA
6. Matt Sykes, WR, Honolulu, HI
7. Choe Bryant-Strother, LB, Norcross, GA
8. Mitchell Agude, DE, Corona, CA*
9. Kenny Mestidor, DE, Oakdale, CT
10. Jay Max Jacobsen, DE, Temecula, CA
11. Caleb Johnson, LB, Murrieta, CA*
12. Myles Jackson, DE, Hoschton, GA
13. Jake Newman, S, Bellflower, CA
14. Bruno Fina, OG, Tucson, AZ
15. DJ Warnell, CB, Dickinson, TX
16. Patrick Selna, OT, Oakland, CA
17. Ioholani Raass, DE, Lehi, UT
18. Jeremiah Trojan, LB, Chandler, AZ
19. Luke Akers, K, Brentwood, TN
20. Joquarri Price, LB, Mesa, AZ

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Peter Brouillet

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	29.4	76
Defense	30.3	91
Margin	**-0.9**	**84**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	43.7%	50
Defense	46.9%	118
Margin	**-3.2%**	**94**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.3	98
Defense	6.7	124
Margin	**-1.4**	**121**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.1	102
Defense	5.2	122
Margin	**-1.1**	**121**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-7.3	123
Actual	-8	110
Margin	**-0.7**	**72**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

167.36

The UCLA defense, which surrendered 32 passing touchdowns and intercepted just five passes, allowed a team pass efficiency rating of 167.36 last season — worst in the Pac-12 and No. 129 in the country.

1.16%

The Bruins failed to come up with big plays defensively throughout the season, and especially against the pass. UCLA intercepted only five passes all year, which was the fewest in the Pac-12. The Bruins' 1.16 percent interception rate was also worst in the conference and ranked No. 125 in FBS.

86.9%

UCLA led the Pac-12 and ranked second nationally with a kickoff touchback percentage of 86.9 percent last season.

DEFENSE Coordinator Jerry Azzinaro was retained to sort out the UCLA defense despite the team giving up 34.8 points per game in 2019. To make matters worse, there will be virtually an entirely new slate of names at the second level of a group that has always had talent but has rarely put it all together at the same time.

There are solid building blocks to work with. Osa Odighizuwa will go into his third and final year as the team's top defensive lineman. There could be decent depth behind him if everybody recovers from injury, with some like Tyler Manoa continuing to see added playing time. The Bruins made progress defending the run but will have to hope another year of seasoning in the trenches will allow for a more productive pass rush.

On the back end, top corner Darnay Holmes is gone, but virtually everyone else returns for new DBs coach Brian Norwood. Ex-Stanford starter Obi Eboh will provide an experienced hand on the outside, while the safety spots are deep enough to allow more nickel and dime packages.

The potential problem area is at linebacker after losing all four starters. There's hope that Carl Jones can make a sophomore leap and that highly touted freshman Damian Sellers can make an early impact. Juco addition Caleb Johnson plus veterans Leni Toailoa and Bo Calvert could help buy the youngsters some time.

SPECIALISTS There will be a new kicker (likely freshman Luke Akers) and punter (Collin Flintoft) for the Bruins, and both will be seeing the field for the first time. While that is a looming Achilles heel, the good news is that the return and coverage units should be solid after making large strides last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS The jury remains out on Kelly in Westwood, but progress has been made addressing some underlying issues with the program, including churning the roster significantly. Now, however, is time for the Bruins to show progress in the win column. The non-conference slate is manageable, and given upheaval around the Pac-12, getting to a bowl game is a minimum bar to clear. Truly competing for the division title in late November might still be a little too much to ask, but if that is UCLA's true goal, then substantial strides will need to be made in 2020.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**2**	**Kyle Philips (So.)**		Logan Loya (Fr.)
WR	**23**	**Chase Cota (Jr.)**	20	Charles Njoku (Fr.)
WR	15	Jaylen Erwin (Sr.)	29	Delon Hurt (Jr.)
LT	**74**	**Sean Rhyan (So.)**		Patrick Selna (Fr.)
LG	59	Siale Liku (Fr.)	77	Beau Taylor (Fr.)
C	**62**	**Duke Clemens (So.)**	64	Sam Marrazzo (Jr.)
RG	57	Jon Gaines II (So.)	56	Atonio Mafi (Jr.)
RT	**73**	**Jake Burton (Sr.)**	70	Alec Anderson (So.)
TE	88	Mike Martinez (So.)	21	Michael Ezeike (Jr.)
QB	**1**	**D. Thompson-Robinson (Jr.)**	7	Colson Yankoff (So.)
RB	10	Demetric Felton (Sr.)		Brittain Brown (Sr.)

DEFENSE (3)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**92**	**Osa Odighizuwa (Sr.)**	97	Odua Isibor (Jr.)
DT	91	Otito Ogbonnia (Jr.)	44	Martin Andrus Jr. (Jr.)
DE	50	Tyler Manoa (Jr.)	58	Datona Jackson (Sr.)
OLB	52	Leni Toailoa (Sr.)	46	Hayden Harris (Fr.)
MLB	33	Bo Calvert (So.)	54	John Ward (Fr.)
MLB	35	Carl Jones (So.)		Caleb Johnson (Jr.)
OLB	47	Shea Pitts (Jr.)		Damian Sellers (Fr.)
CB	3	Rayshad Williams (So.)	24	Jay Shaw (Jr.)
CB		Obi Eboh (Sr.)	12	Elijah Gates (Jr.)
SS	**4**	**Stephan Blaylock (Jr.)**		Qwuantrezz Knight (Sr.)
FS	37	Quentin Lake (Jr.)	**20**	**Elisha Guidry (So.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Luke Akers (Fr.)	**KR**	10	Demetric Felton (Sr.)
P	49	Collin Flintoft (So.)	**PR**	2	Kyle Philips (So.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
D. Thompson-Robinson	**362**	**216**	**2,701**	**21**	**12**
Austin Burton	64	44	365	1	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Joshua Kelley	229	1,060	4.6	12
Demetric Felton	**86**	**331**	**3.8**	**1**
D. Thompson-Robinson	**118**	**198**	**1.7**	**4**
Austin Burton	23	100	4.3	1
Kazmeir Allen	**13**	**63**	**4.8**	**0**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Kyle Philips	**60**	**681**	**11.4**	**5**
Demetric Felton	**55**	**594**	**10.8**	**4**
Devin Asiasi	44	641	14.6	4
Jaylen Erwin	**32**	**339**	**10.6**	**2**
Chase Cota	**25**	**350**	**14.0**	**3**

KICKING: JJ Molson, 8-14 FGs, 64 pts.
TACKLES: **Stephan Blaylock, 86**; Krys Barnes, 72
SACKS: Josh Woods, 4.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Darnay Holmes, 2

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE BRUINS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP UCLA

"A lot of warning flags around this program. With the setbacks USC has had and the Clay Helton firing saga, this was their time to step up and make a name for themselves in Los Angeles. They beat USC in Chip's first year and they've been flat ever since. … Offensively, Chip is a schematic genius. You aren't going to find a brighter football mind. But so much of their success at Oregon was about generating excitement on Saturday you could take to the recruits on Sunday. They're stuck right now because they can't really show proof of concept. … One big alarm is that Chip didn't do the logical thing and make a change at DC. They're terrible right now and it's costing them games. Jerry (Azzinaro) is a close friend of Chip's, and when you stop making the hard business decisions, you end up fired. … (Demetric) Felton is a dynamic Chip Kelly player. He's the closest thing they have to an Oregon-era showstopper. There's no one else on that roster like that, though. … Everyone assumed Chip would come in and take over Southern California recruiting. It's really been the opposite. … A lot coaches feel like this thing could implode this season. The amount of money UCLA has invested might be the thing that saves Chip, but they have to show something more consistent immediately. They're nothing like his Oregon program in any way."

USC Trojans

National Forecast: **19** · Pac-12 South Prediction: **1** · Projected Record: **9-4, 7-2 Pac-12**

Kedon Slovis

The 2020 season is a breath of fresh air for USC in nearly every aspect — save one. A new president is cleaning up at the scandal-ridden school. A new athletic director is calling the shots around Heritage Hall. The Trojans will sport a revamped football coaching staff and return one of the best rosters on the West Coast. Despite positive momentum, though, optimism is still muted. Such a feeling has nothing to do with any player or the schedule but rather with the presence of Clay Helton, whose seat is red hot after a 13–12 mark the past two seasons.

Whether or not Helton can Fight On for another year will be one of the biggest storylines in college football. Such talk will hover over the program at every turn, but regardless how things play out this fall, the head coach will at least be equipped with a team capable of winning — and winning skeptics over. A division title is expected at a minimum, but this being the Cardinal and Gold, the bar is much higher.

OFFENSE The program famous for "Student Body Right" moved to the Air Raid last season, and the results under OC Graham Harrell were impressive. The Trojans scored nearly a touchdown more per game and ranked 15th nationally in yards per play — a jump of 48 spots. That they did so with then-true freshman Kedon Slovis at QB speaks to the talent on hand and the job the coaching staff did playing to its strengths throwing the ball. Slovis is the incumbent behind center and is fully entrenched now that former starter JT Daniels (2,672 yards, 14 TDs in 2018) entered the transfer portal. Backup Matt Fink provides a veteran option.

Slovis will have a strong supporting cast. The backfield includes seniors Vavae Malepeai and Stephen Carr sharing carries with sophomores Markese Stepp and Kenan Christon. It figures to be running back by committee until one emerges as the lead back. USC might have one of the deepest wide receiver corps in the country, too, headlined by Tyler Vaughns and the slippery Amon-Ra St. Brown. Part-time basketball player Drake London (five TDs) provides a big option on the outside, while a pair of former five-stars in Kyle Ford and Bru McCoy are set to contribute quite a bit.

Up front, USC has quality depth along the offensive line despite searching for replacements at both tackle spots. USC has eight freshmen linemen on the roster who will help bolster a solid core of upperclassmen, led by All-Pac-12 first-teamer Alijah Vera-Tucker. He and fellow starter Jalen McKenzie could both kick outside if junior Andrew Vorhees is healthy. Brett Neilon anchors things at center.

DEFENSE The loss of spring practice hit particularly hard with an entirely new defensive staff led by Todd Orlando. He takes over a unit that gave up nearly 30 points per game in 2019 and ranked 101st in FBS in allowing gains of greater than 10 yards. Limiting big plays will be key, and the move to more of a three-man front should allow the staff to maximize the talent on hand.

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Clay Helton
Record at School: 40-22 (4+ years)
Career Record: 40-22 (4+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Graham Harrell
Defensive Coordinator: Todd Orlando
Location: Los Angeles, CA
Stadium: Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (77,500)

KEY TROJANS

AMON-RA ST. BROWN, WR Reliable option out of the slot caught 77 passes for 1,042 yards and six TDs last year to lead all returnees.

TALANOA HUFANGA, S Hard hitter who racked up 90 tackles last season, including 7.5 for a loss, while battling injuries.

KEDON SLOVIS, QB The offseason decision by JT Daniels to enter the transfer portal makes it clear that this team belongs to Slovis.

KEY LOSSES

MICHAEL PITTMAN JR., WR Biletnikoff Award finalist and first-team All-Pac-12 selection had 1,275 yards and 11 TDs in 2019.

AUSTIN JACKSON, OT Athletic left tackle earned first-team All-Pac-12 honors and started every game the last two years.

CHRISTIAN RECTOR, DL Team captain and 23-game starter was a reliable presence up front against the run.

RISING STAR

The Trojans' recent class was rated the program's worst ever in the internet recruiting era, but wideout **GARY BRYANT JR.**, their lone top-100 player, has a chance to make an impact as a freshman. Bryant has the speed to stretch the field and likely will find early playing time out of the slot.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	vs. Alabama #
Sept.	12	New Mexico
Sept.	19	at Stanford
Sept.	26	Arizona State
Oct.	2	at Utah
Oct.	10	California
Oct.	17	at Arizona
Oct.	31	Colorado
Nov.	7	at Oregon
Nov.	14	Washington
Nov.	21	at UCLA
Nov.	28	Notre Dame

#Arlington, TX

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5, 7-2 PAC-12

Aug.	31	Fresno State		W	31-23
Sept.	7	Stanford		W	45-20
Sept.	14	at BYU	(ot)	L	27-30
Sept.	20	Utah		W	30-23
Sept.	28	at Washington		L	14-28
Oct.	12	at Notre Dame		L	27-30
Oct.	19	Arizona		W	41-14
Oct.	25	at Colorado		W	35-31
Nov.	2	Oregon		L	24-56
Nov.	9	at Arizona State		W	31-26
Nov.	16	at California		W	41-17
Nov.	23	UCLA		W	52-35
Dec.	27	vs. Iowa #		L	24-49

#Holiday Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	PAC-12	NATIONAL
Scoring	32.5 ppg	3	35
Rushing	119.6 ypg	10	118
Passing	335.8 ypg	2	6
Total	455.4 ypg	2	20
EFENSE	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	29.4 ppg	6	78
Rushing	162.5 ypg	9	72
Passing	246.2 ypg	4	96
Total	408.7 ypg	6	78
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
-10	-0.77	12	119

2020 RECRUITS

1. Gary Bryant Jr., WR, Corona, CA
2. Jonah Monheim, OG, Moorpark, CA
3. Tuli Tuipulotu, DT, Lawndale, CA
4. Jack Yary, TE, Murrieta, CA
5. Joshua Jackson Jr., WR, Harbor City, CA
6. Jamar Sekona, DT, Greenbrae, CA
7. Kobe Pepe, DT, Bellflower, CA
8. Courtland Ford, OT, Cedar Hill, TX
9. Caadyn Stephen, OT, Camas, WA
10. Casey Collier, OT, Mont Belvieu, TX
11. Andrew Milek, OT, Phoenix, AZ
12. Andres Dewerk, OT, Los Gatos, CA
13. Parker Lewis, K, Scottsdale, AZ

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Peter Brouillet

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	28.3	97
Defense	29.6	74
Margin	**-1.3**	**89**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	49.1%	10
Defense	44.6%	93
Margin	**+4.5%**	**41**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.5	15
Defense	5.7	71
Margin	**+0.8**	**27**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	5.0	28
Defense	4.6	77
Margin	**+0.4**	**47**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-5.5	104
Actual	-10	118
Margin	**-4.5**	**98**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

22.8%

Forcing an opponent to go three-and-out can be a huge boost for a defense. Unfortunately, USC recorded a three-and-out on just 22.8 percent of its series in 2019, which ranked No. 125 in the country.

61.4%

Not surprisingly, the USC defense also struggled to keep opponents off the scoreboard. The Trojans allowed points on 61.4 percent of drives last season, which ranked No. 89 in FBS.

8.9

Kedon Slovis averaged 8.9 yards per pass attempt in 2019, which ranked No. 11 nationally among qualified starters. Slovis also ranked second among all true freshmen behind UCF's Dillon Gabriel (9.2).

Leading the way in the trenches is junior Jay Tufele, who aims to be one of the best defensive linemen out West. He teams off the edge with Drake Jackson, a Freshman All-American who led the team in sacks (5.5) and tackles for a loss (11.5).

Injuries and inconsistent play leave the other linebacker spots as a bit of a question mark, but there's little doubt that the four- and five-stars who dot the roster provide plenty to work with. Palaie Gaoteote IV, Jordan Iosefa and Kana'i Mauga are a trio of upperclassmen who will man the middle, but all have to become more consistent tacklers.

Depth is a strong suit in the secondary, where the team should have no problem utilizing nickel and dime packages. Olaijah Griffin, Chris Steele and Isaac Taylor-Stewart all showed growth at corner, and Greg Johnson emerged as a solid nickel back after some early struggles. What really makes things tick, though, is the safety tandem of Talanoa Hufanga and Isaiah Pola-Mao. The latter led the team with four picks, while the former was the tone-setter with a massive hit or turnover seemingly every game. The team's leading returning tackler, Hufanga was limited by injuries at times, but he's one of the best in the conference when on the field.

SPECIALISTS No unit received more of a coaching upgrade than special teams did with the addition of Sean Snyder. He is highly regarded and will be tasked with improving nearly every aspect under his purview after years of glaring issues. Kicker Chase McGrath is a reliable option, but the team will need more consistency out of punter Ben Griffiths.

FINAL ANALYSIS USC changed nearly everything about its program with the exception of head coach this offseason. While Helton is no favorite of the fan base, he did upgrade the staff and returns a roster that everybody in the Pac-12 would love to have.

Will that be enough in 2020? The Trojans are clear division favorites, but sights are always aimed higher. Opportunities against national powers Alabama and Notre Dame will provide key measuring sticks for the state of Troy and will help determine whether a coaching change is forthcoming.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)				
WR	**21**	**Tyler Vaughns (Sr.)**	4	Bru McCoy (Fr.)
WR	**8**	**Amon-Ra St. Brown (Jr.)**	1	Gary Bryant Jr. (Fr.)
WR	**15**	**Drake London (So.)**	81	Kyle Ford (Fr.)
LT	**75**	**Alijah Vera-Tucker (Jr.)**	65	Frank Martin II (Sr.)
LG	71	Liam Jimmons (Sr.)	57	Justin Dedich (So.)
C	**62**	**Brett Neilon (Jr.)**	66	Gino Quinones (Fr.)
RG	72	Andrew Vorhees (Jr.)	68	Liam Douglass (So.)
RT	**70**	**Jalen McKenzie (Jr.)**	77	Jason Rodriguez (Fr.)
TE	84	Erik Krommenhoek (Sr.)	88	Daniel Imatorbhebhe (Sr.)
QB	**9**	**Kedon Slovis (So.)**	19	Matt Fink (Sr.)
RB	7	Stephen Carr (Sr.)	**29**	**Vavae Malepeai (Sr.)**

DEFENSE (10)				Returning Starters in Bold
DE	**78**	**Jay Tufele (Jr.)**	90	Connor Murphy (Sr.)
DT	**51**	**Marlon Tuipulotu (Jr.)**	91	Brandon Pili (Sr.)
DE	96	Caleb Tremblay (Sr.)	50	Nick Figueroa (Jr.)
OLB	**99**	**Drake Jackson (So.)**	41	Juliano Falaniko (Jr.)
MLB	**1**	**Palaie Gaoteote IV (Jr.)**	10	Ralen Goforth (So.)
MLB	56	Jordan Iosefa (Sr.)	**26**	**Kana'i Mauga (Jr.)**
OLB	31	Hunter Echols (Jr.)	42	Abdul-Malik McClain (So.)
CB	**8**	**Chris Steele (So.)**	9	Greg Johnson (Jr.)
CB	**2**	**Olaijah Griffin (Jr.)**	**6**	**Isaac Taylor-Stuart (So.)**
SS	**15**	**Talanoa Hufanga (Jr.)**	7	Chase Williams (So.)
FS	**21**	**Isaiah Pola-Mao (Jr.)**	25	Briton Allen (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	40	Chase McGrath (Jr.)	**KR**	23	Kenan Christon (So.)
P	24	Ben Griffiths (So.)	**PR**	8	Amon-Ra St. Brown (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Kedon Slovis	392	282	3,502	30	9
Matt Fink	88	58	648	4	5
JT Daniels	34	25	215	1	1

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Vavae Malepeai	105	503	4.8	6
Stephen Carr	72	396	5.5	5
Kenan Christon	68	373	5.5	2
Markese Stepp	49	307	6.4	3

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Michael Pittman Jr.	101	1,275	12.6	11
Amon-Ra St. Brown	77	1,042	13.5	6
Tyler Vaughns	74	912	12.3	6
Drake London	39	567	14.5	5
Stephen Carr	22	143	6.5	1

KICKING: **Chase McGrath, 14-17 FGs, 96 pts.**
TACKLES: John Houston Jr., 104; **Talanoa Hufanga, 90**
SACKS: **Drake Jackson, 5.5**
INTERCEPTIONS: **Isaiah Pola-Mao, 4**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE TROJANS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP USC

"It's been a mess; we all know that. They've had instability and scandals, and everyone in the league thought Clay (Helton) was fired by November of last year. Everyone did. And yet you might see them win the entire conference this year. They're definitely contenders to win the division. … Making the switch to (Graham Harrell's) offense saved them because they're so insanely deep at wide receiver. It makes even more sense looking back. … They made the change at DC to a guy who was fired from a similar situation. (Todd) Orlando was the victim of a lot of injuries at Texas, but he risks coming in and overcomplicating things. They need to be smart but simple. This is still an athletic defense. … Neither line looks like they should. It's USC. Where is the size and physicality? That's the one area where they still look like something is really wrong. … It's really going to sting a lot of their higher-ups if they go into Week One and see Bryce Young playing for Alabama. That's a Cali kid who in almost any other time ends up at USC. They have to get out of that game without being embarrassed. … How many wins will it take to keep Clay? Could they win the division and keep him? It's entirely possible that they get out of Alabama healthy and go on a run. The only Pac-12 team that's inarguably more talented and athletic than them is Oregon."

UTAH Utes

National Forecast: **36** · Pac-12 South Prediction: **3** · Projected Record: **8-4, 5-4 Pac-12**

Brant Kuithe

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Kyle Whittingham
Record at School: 131-64 (15+ years)
Career Record: 131-64 (15+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Andy Ludwig
Defensive Coordinator: Morgan Scalley
Location: Salt Lake City, UT
Stadium: Rice-Eccles Stadium (45,807)

KEY UTES

BRANT KUITHE, TE Led Utah in receptions (34), receiving yards (602) and receiving touchdowns (six) as a sophomore in 2019.

BRITAIN COVEY, WR Fully healed and returning from a knee injury, Covey was Utah's leading receiver in 2015 and 2018.

ORLANDO UMANA, C Umana has played in 39 games in three seasons, including 25 starts. Of those 25 starts, 21 have come at center.

KEY LOSSES

ZACK MOSS, RB The Pac-12 Offensive Player of the Year, Moss rushed for 1,416 yards and 15 TDs, finishing with 1,804 all-purpose yards.

TYLER HUNTLEY, QB As a senior, Huntley completed 73.1 percent of his passes, throwing for 3,092 yards, 19 TDs and four interceptions.

BRADLEE ANAE, DE Anae had 13 sacks in 2019, giving him 30 for his career. Anae was a consensus first-team All-American as a senior.

RISING STAR

Four-star defensive back **CLARK PHILLIPS III** is Utah's highest-rated recruit ever, and he figures to be in the mix to start at either cornerback or nickel when the Utes open the season Sept. 3 against in-state rival BYU. Phillips flipped to Utah after originally committing to Ohio State.

The last time we saw the Utes, they were being overwhelmed by Texas in the Alamo Bowl. This, after getting overwhelmed by Oregon in the Pac-12 Championship Game.

Those two losses are generally the lasting images, but they should not overshadow what was by and large a big season for the Utes, who started 11–1, won the Pac-12 South for the second year in a row and rose to No. 5 in the College Football Playoff rankings.

From that 11–3, high-water-mark season, Utah will enter 2020 looking much different. Key players on both sides of the ball are gone, including an All-Pac-12 quarterback in Tyler Huntley, a legendary running back in Zack Moss and the program's career sack leader in Bradlee Anae.

How well head coach Kyle Whittingham and his staff replace an abundance of key pieces will help determine whether or not Utah can again be a factor in the Pac-12 South race.

OFFENSE Before the COVID-19 pandemic canceled spring practice after three sessions, a quarterback competition between South Carolina graduate transfer Jake Bentley and redshirt sophomore Cameron Rising was just underway.

Bentley committed to the Utes on Dec. 9, having started 33 games for the Gamecocks across four seasons. Rising has zero collegiate starts, but he does have the advantage of having spent a season working with Utes offensive coordinator Andy Ludwig after transferring from Texas. Early spring practices, before players are in full pads, need to be taken with a grain of salt, but Whittingham did say Rising looked better at the time.

Running back is another position where competition was ongoing, namely between junior Devin Brumfield and sophomore Jordan Wilmore. Junior TJ Green and incoming, multidimensional freshman Ty Jordan also figure to play roles.

The bad news for the offense is a need to find a quarterback and running back, but the good news is that there is no shortage of pass-catching options. All-Pac-12 tight end Brant Kuithe returns, as does slot receiver Britain Covey, who took a redshirt last season to fully recover from a knee injury suffered in the 2018 Pac-12 Championship Game against Washington.

There are veteran options on the outside but not a lot of game experience. Junior Solomon Enis is a downfield threat, as is classmate Bryan Thompson. Senior Samson Nacua should also be in the mix.

DEFENSE Utah's defense was veteran-heavy, not to mention ferocious, in 2019, finishing in the top-6 nationally in total defense, scoring defense and rushing defense.

Much of that defense is gone, with Whittingham and defensive coordinator Morgan Scalley needing to replace nine starters. The defensive backfield offers the most glaring holes with junior cornerback Jaylon Johnson and junior nickel Javelin K. Guidry gone to the NFL.

Junior Bronson Boyd and sophomore JaTravis Brough-

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3	BYU
Sept.	12	Montana State
Sept.	19	at Wyoming
Sept.	26	at California
Oct.	2	USC
Oct.	10	at Washington State
Oct.	17	Washington
Oct.	29	at UCLA
Nov.	7	Arizona
Nov.	14	Oregon State
Nov.	21	at Arizona State
Nov.	28	at Colorado

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 11-3, 8-1 PAC-12

Aug.	29	at BYU	W	30-12
Sept.	7	Northern Illinois	W	35-17
Sept.	14	Idaho State	W	31-0
Sept.	20	at USC	L	23-30
Sept.	28	Washington State	W	38-13
Oct.	12	at Oregon State	W	52-7
Oct.	19	Arizona State	W	21-3
Oct.	26	California	W	35-0
Nov.	2	at Washington	W	33-28
Nov.	16	UCLA	W	49-3
Nov.	23	at Arizona	W	35-7
Nov.	30	Colorado	W	45-15
Dec.	6	vs. Oregon #	L	15-37
Dec.	31	vs. Texas %	L	10-38

#Santa Clara, CA %Alamo Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	PAC-12	NATIONAL
Scoring	32.3 ppg	4	38
Rushing	201.4 ypg	1	32
Passing	227.6 ypg	11	69
Total	429.0 ypg	5	48
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	15.0 ppg	1	6
Rushing	81.8 ypg	1	3
Passing	187.4 ypg	1	13
Total	269.2 ypg	1	2
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**PAC-12**	**NATIONAL**
+9	+0.64	4	17

2020 RECRUITS

1. Clark Phillips III, CB, La Habra, CA
2. Van Fillinger, DE, Draper, UT
3. Xavier Carlton, DE, Draper, UT
4. Nate Ritchie, S, American Fork, UT
5. Connor O'Toole, TE, Albuquerque, NM
6. Ty Jordan, RB, Mesquite, TX
7. Solatoa Moea'i, OT, Honolulu, HI
8. Keanu Tanuvasa, DT, Mission Viejo, CA
9. Money Parks, WR, Aledo, TX
10. Tyler Wegis, DE, San Juan Capistrano, CA
11. Alex Harrison, OT, Bountiful, UT
12. Kenzel Lawler, ATH, Corona, CA
13. Sione Fotu, LB, South Jordan, UT
14. Caine Savage, ATH, Anaheim, CA
15. Kamo'i Latu, S, Honolulu, HI
16. Tanoa Togiai, DE, Rigby, ID
17. Ben Renfro, S, Magnolia, TX
18. Graham Faloona, LB, Southlake, TX
19. Faybian Marks, CB, Richmond, TX
20. Jeremy Mercier, LB, Gila Bend, AZ
21. Cooper Justice, QB, Lake Oswego, OR

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Peter Brouillet

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	29.9	61
Defense	27.7	28
Margin	**+2.2**	**44**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	48.9%	13
Defense	37.1%	23
Margin	**+11.8%**	**8**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.6	14
Defense	4.6	6
Margin	**+2.0**	**7**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.8	42
Defense	3.9	17
Margin	**+0.9**	**22**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	11.0	6
Actual	9	14
Margin	**-2.0**	**86**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

29.53

Utah played at a very methodical pace on offense in 2019. The Utes allowed an average of 29.53 seconds to pass between offensive snaps last season, which was the slowest pace in the country.

3.9

Utah threw for an average of 9.9 yards per attempt in 2019 and allowed just 6.0 yards per pass. The net result, 3.9 yards per attempt, was best in the Pac-12 and ranked No. 5 nationally.

19.62%

Utah allowed its opponents to reach the red zone 31 times in 158 offensive possessions last season. With only 19.62 percent of opponent drives reaching the Utah 20-yard line, the Utes led the Pac-12 and ranked No. 7 nationally.

ton were the early favorites at each cornerback spot, but freshman Clark Phillips III was on campus for spring practice and was already in the mix to start. The highest-rated recruit in program history, Phillips could see time at cornerback, but nickel is his natural position.

Along the defensive line, Anae is gone at one defensive end spot, so junior Mika Tafua or senior Mufi Hill-Hunt hope to replace his production. Tafua was honorable mention All-Pac-12 at right end as a redshirt sophomore in 2019.

Redshirt junior linebacker Devin Lloyd returns to lead that group, which is devoid of much game experience. Lloyd had a team-high 91 tackles last season.

SPECIALISTS Covey's return as a redshirt junior is a boon for Utah's return game. Covey was Utah's leading receiver in 2015 and 2018 (he served a two-year LDS church mission in 2016 and 2017), but he was also an All-Pac-12 return specialist both years. In 2018 as a true sophomore, Covey averaged 8.8 yards per punt return on 25 tries.

Sophomore punter Ben Lennon netted 40.9 yards per punt on 44 attempts in 2019, while incumbent placekicker Jadon Redding was 10-for-13 on field-goal attempts with a long of 42 yards. BYU kicker Skyler Southam transferred to Utah in January but will likely have to sit out the 2020 season due to NCAA transfer rules.

FINAL ANALYSIS There is an abundance of question marks all over the field for Utah, but winning the Pac-12 South for a third straight season is not an entirely unreasonable expectation, especially if the Utes can figure out the quarterback situation.

The Utes' two toughest Pac-12 games, Oct. 2 vs. USC and Oct. 17 vs. Washington, will both be at Rice-Eccles Stadium, which is helpful to their cause. Closing the regular season at Arizona State on Nov. 21 and at Colorado on Nov. 28 will provide difficult challenges. Early road tests at Cal on Sept. 26 and at Washington State on Oct. 10 also offer intrigue.

Utah generally does a good job of reloading on defense, and if the offensive questions get answered, then the Utes have a chance to get back to the doorstep of their first Rose Bowl.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**1**	**Bryan Thompson (Jr.)**	45	Samson Nacua (Sr.)
WR	21	Solomon Enis (Jr.)	17	Devaughn Vele (Fr.)
WR	**18**	**Britain Covey (Jr.)**	9	Tyrone Young-Smith (Sr.)
LT	**55**	**Nick Ford (Jr.)**	94	Falcon Kaumatule (Fr.)
LG	51	Keaton Bills (Fr.)	64	Marist Talavou (Fr.)
C	**50**	**Orlando Umana (Sr.)**	78	Sataoa Laumea (Fr.)
RG	**71**	**Braeden Daniels (So.)**	53	Johnny Maea (So.)
RT	**69**	**Simi Moala (So.)**	73	Bamidele Olaseni (Sr.)
TE	**80**	**Brant Kuithe (Jr.)**	40	Ali'i Niumatalolo (Sr.)
QB	8	Jake Bentley (Sr.)	7	Cameron Rising (So.)
RB	6	Devin Brumfield (Jr.)	5	Jordan Wilmore (So.)

DEFENSE (2)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	43	Mufi Hill-Hunt (Sr.)	81	Taniela Pututau (Fr.)
DT	41	Hauati Pututau (Sr.)	93	Semisi Lauaki (Fr.)
DT	98	Viane Moala (Sr.)	49	Pita Tonga (Sr.)
DE	**42**	**Mika Tafua (Jr.)**	56	Tyler Gonzalez (So.)
OLB	55	Andrew Mata'afa (So.)	29	Nephi Sewell (Jr.)
MLB	**20**	**Devin Lloyd (Jr.)**	32	Moroni Anae (Jr.)
OLB	54	Hayden Furey (So.)	51	Samuelu Elisaia (Sr.)
CB	8	Bronson Boyd (Jr.)	12	Drew Rawls (Fr.)
CB	4	JaTravis Broughton (So.)	31	L. Pleasant-Johnson (Fr.)
SS	38	Stone Azarcon (Jr.)	27	Alphonso Taylor (So.)
FS	19	Vonte Davis (Sr.)	14	Ben Renfro (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	97	Jadon Redding (So.)	**KR**	18	Britain Covey (Jr.)
P	33	Ben Lennon (So.)	**PR**	18	Britain Covey (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Tyler Huntley	301	220	3,092	19	4
Drew Lisk	**9**	**7**	**52**	**0**	**0**
Jason Shelley	11	6	43	1	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Zack Moss	235	1,416	6.0	15
Tyler Huntley	104	290	2.8	5
Devin Brumfield	**59**	**263**	**4.5**	**2**
Jordan Wilmore	**49**	**194**	**4.0**	**1**
Devonta'e Henry-Cole	34	188	5.56	2

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Brant Kuithe	**34**	**602**	**17.7**	**6**
Zack Moss	28	388	13.9	2
Demari Simpkins	32	352	11.0	2
Jaylen Dixon	**24**	**343**	**14.3**	**1**
Derrick Vickers	19	202	10.6	0

KICKING: **Jadon Redding, 10-13 FGs, 86 pts.**
TACKLES: **Devin Lloyd, 91**; Francis Bernard, 85
SACKS: Bradlee Anae, 13.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Julian Blackmon, 4

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE UTES

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP UTAH

"This is a program that completely understands its identity, how to recruit their guys and build them up. Their problem this year is replacing all those guys they lost last season. As consistent as they've been, you have to expect a step back. I wouldn't use "rebuild," just maybe "step back and reload."... Because they're so consistent, you still know what you're getting from them even with the new faces. They want to maul you. They're the most physical team in the league. They want you in their place, at night, and they're gonna lay the wood. It's one of the most underrated atmospheres in all of college football. You show up and it's loud as hell and cold and they're doing a haka before the game on the field. ... All five of their starters in the secondary are gone. That's the real test for the program and the coaching staff. If you've been as good as we think at development, you'll be able to plug those holes. ... The best way to beat them is get them out of their comfort zone. They're very specific and deliberate, especially their offense. ... Jake Bentley could work really well in Andy Ludwig's system. If that clicks, it will go a long way towards keeping them at the top of the division. ... They're going to be fine, but there are too many question marks on the depth chart to consider them a repeat favorite in the South."

SEC *Preview*

EAST DIVISION	PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH	WEST DIVISION
1 *Florida* **GATORS** 11-2, 7-1 SEC	1 *Alabama* **CRIMSON TIDE** 12-1, 7-1 SEC	
2 *Georgia* **BULLDOGS** 10-2, 6-2 SEC	2 *LSU* **TIGERS** 10-2, 6-2 SEC	
3 *Tennessee* **VOLUNTEERS** 8-4, 5-3 SEC	3 *Texas A&M* **AGGIES** 9-3, 5-3 SEC	
4 *Kentucky* **WILDCATS** 7-5, 4-4 SEC	4 *Auburn* **TIGERS** 9-3, 5-3 SEC	
5 *South Carolina* **GAMECOCKS** 6-6, 3-5 SEC	5 *Ole Miss* **REBELS** 7-5, 4-4 SEC	
6 *Missouri* **TIGERS** 5-7, 2-6 SEC	6 *Mississippi State* **BULLDOGS** 6-6, 2-6 SEC	
7 *Vanderbilt* **COMMODORES** 3-9, 0-8 SEC	7 *Arkansas* **RAZORBACKS** 3-9, 0-8 SEC	

SEC Championship: **Alabama over Florida**

Games to Watch

SEPT. 5
USC VS. ALABAMA
Two of the game's bluebloods kick off the season in Jerry World. USC could use a win over an Alabama team that's reloading for another title run.

SEPT. 12
TEXAS AT LSU
Texas gets another shot at LSU. The Longhorns won't have to worry about facing Joe Burrow and several other key Tigers from last year's title team.

SEPT. 19
GEORGIA AT ALABAMA
Kirby Smart is 0–2 against Nick Saban, and Alabama has beaten Georgia five straight times overall.

SEPT. 26
FLORIDA AT TENNESSEE
After finishing 2019 strong, are Jeremy Pruitt's Volunteers ready to contend? A win in Knoxville over Florida would put Tennessee in position to challenge in the SEC East.

OCT. 3
ALABAMA AT OLE MISS
Nick Saban vs. Lane Kiffin; what else needs to be said? Alabama has beaten Ole Miss by an average of nearly 50 points over the last three meetings.

OCT. 10
AUBURN AT GEORGIA
Georgia has won three in a row against Auburn. What's more, the Tigers haven't beaten the Bulldogs in Athens since 2005 (0–6 in that span).

Surtain: Paul Abell

2020 Unit Rankings

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
Alabama	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
Arkansas	7	7	8	12	14	14	13
Auburn	4	9	5	11	6	2	9
Florida	2	11	3	7	3	9	3
Georgia	1	2	4	4	1	1	2
Kentucky	9	4	13	2	11	5	5
LSU	10	10	2	8	4	6	1
Missouri	13	12	11	13	8	4	8
Miss. State	6	3	12	6	10	12	12
Ole Miss	8	6	7	10	12	10	11
South Carolina	11	13	10	9	9	11	6
Tennessee	12	8	9	3	7	7	7
Texas A&M	5	5	6	5	5	8	10
Vanderbilt	14	14	14	14	13	13	14

Recruiting by School

1. Georgia
2. Alabama
3. LSU
4. Texas A&M
5. Auburn
6. Florida
7. Tennessee
8. South Carolina
9. Kentucky
10. Mississippi State
11. Arkansas
12. Ole Miss
13. Missouri
14. Vanderbilt

Patrick Surtain II

2020 Bowl Projections

Citrus Bowl: Auburn vs. Wisconsin

Gator Bowl: Ole Miss vs. Florida State

Las Vegas Bowl: Texas A&M vs. Arizona State

Liberty Bowl: Kentucky vs. Baylor

Music City Bowl: South Carolina vs. Iowa

Outback Bowl: Tennessee vs. Michigan

Texas Bowl: Mississippi State vs. Iowa State

Cotton Bowl: LSU vs. Notre Dame

Peach Bowl: Georgia vs. Cincinnati

Orange Bowl: Florida vs. North Carolina

Rose Bowl (CFP): Alabama vs. Ohio State

SEC Coordinator Carousel

Arkansas: Offense
New: Kendal Briles
Old: Joe Craddock

Arkansas: Defense
New: Barry Odom
Old: John Chavis

Auburn: Offense
New: Kodi Burns, Chad Morris
Old: Kodi Burns, Kenny Dillingham

Georgia: Offense
New: Todd Monken
Old: James Coley

LSU: Defense
New: Bo Pelini
Old: Dave Aranda

Mississippi State: Offense
New: Mike Leach
Old: Joe Moorhead

Mississippi State: Defense
New: Zach Arnett
Old: Bob Shoop

Missouri: Offense
New: Eliah Drinkwitz
Old: Derek Dooley

Ole Miss: Offense
New: Jeff Lebby
Old: Rich Rodriguez

Ole Miss: Defense
New: D.J. Durkin, Chris Partridge
Old: Mike MacIntyre

South Carolina: Offense
New: Mike Bobo
Old: Bryan McClendon

Tennessee: Defense
New: Derrick Ansley, Jimmy Brumbaugh
Old: Derrick Ansley, Chris Rumph

Vanderbilt: Offense
New: Todd Fitch
Old: Gerry Gdowski

Vanderbilt: Defense
New: Ted Roof
Old: Jason Tarver

OCT. 10
LSU AT FLORIDA
These teams have swapped wins over their last five meetings. LSU won last season in Baton Rouge.

OCT. 31
FLORIDA VS. GEORGIA
Going back to 2008, these two teams have traded three-game winning streaks in this series. Georgia has won the last three, so it's up to Florida to keep the pattern going.

NOV. 7
ALABAMA AT LSU
A rare revenge game for Alabama after losing to LSU in Tuscaloosa last season, snapping the Tide's eight-game winning streak over the Tigers.

NOV. 26
MISSISSIPPI STATE AT OLE MISS
One of the most heated rivalries in college football adds Mike Leach and Lane Kiffin to the mix. This year's Egg Bowl is definitely must-see TV.

NOV. 28
AUBURN AT ALABAMA
Auburn knocked Alabama out of the New Year's Six mix last year. The Tigers now look for their first win in Tuscaloosa since 2010.

NOV. 28
LSU AT TEXAS A&M
The last time these two teams met in College Station, it went to seven over-times. A&M is looking for payback after last season's 50–7 beatdown.

Kyle Trask

SEC Returning Leaders

Passing	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	AVG/G
Kyle Trask, Florida	354	237	66.9	2,941	25	7	245.1
Kellen Mond, Texas A&M	419	258	61.6	2,897	20	9	222.8
Ryan Hilinski, South Carolina	406	236	58.1	2,357	11	5	214.3

Rushing	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
John Rhys Plumlee, Ole Miss	154	1,023	6.6	12	75	113.7
Kylin Hill, Mississippi State	242	1,350	5.6	10	62	103.8
Rakeem Boyd, Arkansas	184	1,133	6.2	8	86	94.4

Receiving	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
Ja'Marr Chase, LSU	84	1,780	21.2	20	78	127.1
DeVonta Smith, Alabama	68	1,256	18.5	14	85	96.6
Elijah Moore, Ole Miss	67	850	12.7	6	55	70.8

Tackles: Nick Bolton, Missouri (107), Dimitri Moore, Vanderbilt (99)
Sacks: Kobie Whiteside, Missouri (6.5), Jamar Watson, Kentucky (6.5)
Interceptions: Derek Stingley Jr., LSU (6), four players tied with 4

2019 SEC Standings

EAST	SEC	OVERALL	WEST	SEC	OVERALL
Georgia	7-1	12-2	LSU	8-0	15-0
Florida	6-2	11-2	Alabama	6-2	11-2
Tennessee	5-3	8-5	Auburn	5-3	9-4
Kentucky	3-5	8-5	Texas A&M	4-4	8-5
Missouri	3-5	6-6	Mississippi State	3-5	6-7
South Carolina	3-5	4-8	Ole Miss	2-6	4-8
Vanderbilt	1-7	3-9	Arkansas	0-8	2-10

2019 Bowl Results

Music City Bowl: Louisville 38, Mississippi State 28
Belk Bowl: Kentucky 37, Virginia Tech 30
Gator Bowl: Tennessee 23, Indiana 22
Texas Bowl: Texas A&M 24, Oklahoma State 21
Outback Bowl: Minnesota 31, Auburn 24
Citrus Bowl: Alabama 35, Michigan 16
Orange Bowl: Florida 36, Virginia 28
Sugar Bowl: Georgia 26, Baylor 14
Peach Bowl (CFP Semifinal): LSU 63, Oklahoma 28
CFP National Championship Game: LSU 42, Clemson 25

2019 SEC Team Stats & Rankings

Offense

	SCORING	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
Alabama	47.2 (2)	168.5 (6)	342.2 (2)	510.8 (2)
Arkansas	21.4 (13)	147.2 (11)	192.9 (11)	340.1 (13)
Auburn	33.2 (3T)	199.1 (4)	207.5 (9)	406.5 (6)
Florida	33.2 (3T)	129.8 (13)	300.8 (3)	430.5 (4)
Georgia	30.8 (5)	185.1 (5)	223.0 (5)	408.1 (5)
Kentucky	27.2 (8)	278.8 (1)	113.7 (14)	392.5 (9)
LSU	48.4 (1)	166.8 (7)	401.6 (1)	568.4 (1)
Mississippi State	27.6 (7)	220.6 (3)	179.5 (12)	400.1 (7)
Missouri	25.3 (10)	151.7 (9)	222.6 (6)	374.3 (10)
Ole Miss	26.6 (9)	251.3 (2)	194.0 (10)	445.3 (3)
South Carolina	22.4 (12)	149.7 (10)	222.3 (7)	371.9 (11)
Tennessee	24.2 (11)	144.2 (12)	221.4 (8)	365.5 (12)
Texas A&M	29.5 (6)	159.1 (8)	235.4 (4)	394.5 (8)
Vanderbilt	16.5 (14)	124.7 (14)	172.0 (13)	296.7 (14)

Defense

	SCORING	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
Alabama	18.6 (3)	137.2 (7)	187.2 (3)	324.4 (5)
Arkansas	36.8 (14)	221.5 (14)	229.2 (11)	450.7 (14)
Auburn	19.5 (6)	123.2 (4)	213.8 (8)	337.0 (7)
Florida	15.5 (2)	102.8 (2)	202.1 (6)	304.8 (2)
Georgia	12.6 (1)	74.6 (1)	201.1 (5)	275.7 (1)
Kentucky	19.3 (4)	154.3 (11)	167.8 (1)	322.2 (4)
LSU	21.9 (8)	120.8 (3)	222.7 (9)	343.5 (9)
Mississippi State	28.8 (12)	152.4 (10)	246.8 (13)	399.2 (11)
Missouri	19.4 (5)	132.8 (6)	179.3 (2)	312.0 (3)
Ole Miss	26.5 (11)	138.5 (8)	278.3 (14)	416.8 (12)
South Carolina	26.1 (10)	158.0 (12)	235.3 (12)	393.3 (10)
Tennessee	21.7 (7)	140.5 (9)	194.0 (4)	334.5 (6)
Texas A&M	22.5 (9)	130.7 (5)	209.5 (7)	340.2 (8)
Vanderbilt	31.8 (13)	208.8 (13)	227.8 (10)	436.6 (13)

Trask, Smith, LeCounte: Tom DiPace; Spiller: Craig Bisacre/Texas A&M Athletics; Rountree: Missouri Athletics

ALL-SEC TEAM

First-Team Offense

QB	**Jamie Newman**	6-4	230	Sr.	Georgia
RB	**Najee Harris**	6-2	230	Sr.	Alabama
RB	**Kylin Hill**	5-11	215	Sr.	Mississippi State
AP	**Jerrion Ealy**	5-9	180	So.	Ole Miss
WR	**Ja'Marr Chase**	6-1	200	Jr.	LSU
WR	**DeVonta Smith**	6-1	175	Sr.	Alabama
TE	**Kyle Pitts**	6-6	239	Jr.	Florida
C	**Drake Jackson**	6-2	310	Sr.	Kentucky
OL	**Trey Smith**	6-6	335	Sr.	Tennessee
OL	**Alex Leatherwood**	6-6	310	Sr.	Alabama
OL	**Darrian Kinnard**	6-5	347	Jr.	Kentucky
OL	**Landon Dickerson**	6-6	308	Sr.	Alabama

Trey Smith

Richard LeCounte

First-Team Defense

DL	**Tyler Shelvin**	6-3	346	Jr.	LSU
DL	**Big Kat Bryant**	6-5	250	Sr.	Auburn
DL	**LaBryan Ray**	6-5	292	Jr.	Alabama
DL	**Bobby Brown III**	6-4	315	Jr.	Texas A&M
LB	**Dylan Moses**	6-3	235	Jr.	Alabama
LB	**Nick Bolton**	6-0	232	Jr.	Missouri
LB	**K.J. Britt**	6-0	243	Sr.	Auburn
CB	**Derek Stingley Jr.**	6-1	190	So.	LSU
CB	**Patrick Surtain II**	6-2	203	Jr.	Alabama
S	**Richard LeCounte**	5-11	190	Sr.	Georgia
S	**JaCoby Stevens**	6-1	228	Sr.	LSU

First-Team Specialists

K	**Brent Cimaglia**	6-0	210	Sr.	Tennessee
P	**Max Duffy**	6-1	185	Sr.	Kentucky
KR	**Jerrion Ealy**	5-9	180	So.	Ole Miss
PR	**Jaylen Waddle**	6-1	195	So.	Alabama

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	**Kyle Trask**	6-5	239	Sr.	Florida
RB	**Rakeem Boyd**	6-0	215	Sr.	Arkansas
RB	**Isaiah Spiller**	6-1	220	So.	Texas A&M
AP	**Kadarius Toney**	5-11	194	Sr.	Florida
WR	**Jaylen Waddle**	6-1	195	So.	Alabama
WR	**George Pickens**	6-3	190	So.	Georgia
TE	**Jalen Wydermyer**	6-5	260	So.	Texas A&M
C	**Trey Hill**	6-4	330	Jr.	Georgia
OL	**Sadarius Hutcherson**	6-4	320	Sr.	South Carolina
OL	**Landon Young**	6-7	321	Sr.	Kentucky
OL	**Cade Mays**	6-6	328	Jr.	Tennessee
OL	**Deonte Brown**	6-4	338	Sr.	Alabama

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	**Kobie Whiteside**	6-1	300	Sr.	Missouri
DL	**Jordan Davis**	6-6	330	Jr.	Georgia
DL	**Malik Herring**	6-3	280	Sr.	Georgia
DL	**Aaron Sterling**	6-1	250	Sr.	South Carolina
LB	**Monty Rice**	6-1	235	Sr.	Georgia
LB	**Henry To'o-To'o**	6-2	235	So.	Tennessee
LB	**Jamar Watson**	6-3	248	Sr.	Kentucky
CB	**Eric Stokes**	6-1	185	Jr.	Georgia
CB	**Kaiir Elam**	6-2	187	So.	Florida
S	**Demani Richardson**	6-1	212	So.	Texas A&M
S	**Tyree Gillespie**	6-0	210	Sr.	Missouri

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	**Cade York**	6-2	189	So.	LSU
P	**Jake Camarda**	6-2	180	Jr.	Georgia
KR	**Jaylen Waddle**	6-1	195	So.	Alabama
PR	**Christian Tutt**	5-11	192	Jr.	Auburn

Isaiah Spiller
Texas A&M

Larry Rountree III
Missouri

Erroll Thompson
Mississippi State

Jaycee Horn
South Carolina

THIRD-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	**Bo Nix**	6-2	213	So.	Auburn
RB	**Zamir White**	6-0	215	So.	Georgia
RB	**Larry Rountree III**	5-10	210	Sr.	Missouri
AP	**Ty Chandler**	5-11	209	Sr.	Tennessee
WR	**Seth Williams**	6-3	211	Jr.	Auburn
WR	**Jhamon Ausbon**	6-2	225	Sr.	Texas A&M
TE	**Arik Gilbert**	6-6	245	Fr.	LSU
C	**Nick Brahms**	6-3	299	Jr.	Auburn
OL	**Ben Brown**	6-5	320	Jr.	Ole Miss
OL	**Ben Cleveland**	6-6	335	Sr.	Georgia
OL	**Kenyon Green**	6-4	325	So.	Texas A&M
OL	**Luke Fortner**	6-6	305	Sr.	Kentucky

THIRD-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	**Zachary Carter**	6-4	263	Jr.	Florida
DL	**Christian Barmore**	6-5	310	So.	Alabama
DL	**DeMarvin Leal**	6-4	290	So.	Texas A&M
DL	**Dayo Odeyingbo**	6-6	280	Sr.	Vanderbilt
LB	**Erroll Thompson**	6-1	250	Sr.	Mississippi State
LB	**Buddy Johnson**	6-2	230	Sr.	Texas A&M
LB	**Ernest Jones**	6-2	230	Jr.	South Carolina
CB	**Jaycee Horn**	6-1	205	Jr.	South Carolina
CB	**Marco Wilson**	6-0	190	Jr.	Florida
S	**Shawn Davis**	5-11	185	Sr.	Florida
S	**Jammie Robinson**	5-11	195	So.	South Carolina

THIRD-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	**Evan McPherson**	5-11	177	Jr.	Florida
P	**Harrison Smith**	5-10	186	Jr.	Vanderbilt
KR	**Velus Jones Jr.**	6-2	202	Sr.	Tennessee
PR	**Ainias Smith**	5-10	193	So.	Texas A&M

Thompson: Austin Perryman/Mississippi State Athletics; Horn: Paul Abell

FLORIDA Gators

National Forecast: **6** · SEC East Prediction: **1** · Projected Record: **11-2, 7-1 SEC**

Kyle Pitts

Florida quarterback Kyle Trask's rise from obscurity to folk-hero status captured the unpredictability of college football. Trask calls last season "a pretty crazy ride for me." It was for the Gators, too.

Now, Dan Mullen's squad, his starting quarterback and Florida's fan base hope the next stop is the four-team College Football Playoff.

"We definitely feel pretty strongly that we have a good shot at it this year," Trask says.

The typically understated Texan is not getting out over his skis. In an increasingly quarterback-centric sport, the Gators are in their best shape at QB since Tim Tebow, while the top of the SEC is scrambling at the position.

Gone are LSU star and reigning Heisman Trophy champion Joe Burrow, Alabama's Tua Tagovailoa, and Georgia's Jake Fromm. That leaves Trask as the league's top returning passer. "It's really his team and this is his last year," All-SEC tight end Kyle Pitts says. "He's going to make sure everybody is competing every day."

OFFENSE Mullen loves to keep defenses guessing. But one of college football's top play-callers is not going to push for a balanced attack at the expense of having an effective one.

Consider the 2019 Gators. A season after averaging 213.5 passing yards and 213.2 rushing yards, Florida averaged 300.8 passing yards and 129.8 rushing yards. Mullen and the Gators would like to get closer to 50-50 in 2020, but Trask, Pitts and big-play senior wideouts Trevon Grimes and Kadarius Toney form the attack's foundation.

Evening things out will hinge on whether the offensive line can make major strides after being pushed around last season. Three starters return, led by redshirt senior Brett Heggie at center. But the cancellation of spring practices cost veteran coach John Hevesy the opportunity to toy with combinations and bring along younger O-linemen.

Tailback Dameon Pierce waited two seasons behind Lamical Perine to shoulder the load. But he could be part of a rotation that includes Miami transfer Lorenzo Lingard. A former five-star recruit, Lingard will be the X-factor if he gains an NCAA eligibility waiver.

DEFENSE The defense must replace sack leader Jonathan Greenard, leading tackler David Reese II, and top cornerback CJ Henderson. The trio helped Florida allow fewer touchdowns than all but three teams in college football (San Diego State, Georgia, Iowa), while leading the SEC in sacks and red zone defense.

As the Gators define new roles and establish new stars, the key piece to its defensive success remains in place — coordinator Todd Grantham. The 53-year-old brings vast experience at the college and NFL levels, along with his ability to move pieces around in his 3-4 scheme to create mismatches and pressure.

Linebacker Brenton Cox Jr., a Georgia transfer, has the size (6'4", 247) and explosiveness to become the next in a long line of top pass rushers under Grantham. Two years removed from an ACL tear, redshirt junior Marco Wil-

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Dan Mullen
Record at School: 21-5 (2 years)
Career Record: 90-51 (11 years)
Offensive Coordinators: Billy Gonzales, John Hevesy
Defensive Coordinator: Todd Grantham
Location: Gainesville, FL
Stadium: Ben Hill Griffin Stadium (88,548)

KEY GATORS

KYLE PITTS, TE Athletic and sure-handed at 6'6", Pitts is a mismatch. His 54 grabs led the Gators and earned him All-SEC honors.

MARCO WILSON, DB Smart, skilled and physical, Wilson can excel at corner or nickel.

KYLE TRASK, QB Trask replaced injured starter Feleipe Franks, and UF eventually averaged 300 passing yards for the first time since 2001, Steve Spurrier's final season.

KEY LOSSES

LAMICAL PERINE, RB He scored 28 TDs the past three seasons, including three — to go with 181 total yards — in the Orange Bowl.

VAN JEFFERSON, WR Led Florida wide receivers the past two seasons in receptions and receiving yards and scored 12 touchdowns.

JONATHAN GREENARD, DE The Louisville graduate transfer led the SEC with 10 sacks and 15.5 tackles for a loss.

RISING STAR

KAIIR ELAM arrived with expectations but found a logjam at cornerback. Elam bided his time until Trey Dean III's sophomore slump opened the door. Elam seized his chance, capped by an interception to seal Florida's Orange Bowl win, earning a spot on the SEC All-Freshman team.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Eastern Washington
Sept.	12	Kentucky
Sept.	19	South Alabama
Sept.	26	at Tennessee
Oct.	3	South Carolina
Oct.	10	LSU
Oct.	17	at Ole Miss
Oct.	31	vs. Georgia #
Nov.	7	at Vanderbilt
Nov.	14	Missouri
Nov.	21	New Mexico State
Nov.	28	at Florida State

#Jacksonville, FL

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 11-2, 6-2 SEC

Aug.	24	Miami	W	24-20
Sept.	7	Tennessee-Martin	W	45-0
Sept.	14	at Kentucky	W	29-21
Sept.	21	Tennessee	W	34-3
Sept.	28	Towson	W	38-0
Oct.	5	Auburn	W	24-13
Oct.	13	at LSU	L	28-42
Oct.	19	at South Carolina	W	38-27
Nov.	2	vs. Georgia #	L	17-24
Nov.	9	Vanderbilt	W	56-0
Nov.	16	at Missouri	W	23-6
Nov.	30	Florida State	W	40-17
Dec.	30	vs. Virginia %	W	36-28

#Jacksonville %Orange Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SEC	NATIONAL
Scoring	33.2 ppg	3	28
Rushing	129.8 ypg	13	107
Passing	300.8 ypg	3	16
Total	430.5 ypg	4	45
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	15.5 ppg	2	7
Rushing	102.8 ypg	2	8
Passing	202.1 ypg	6	32
Total	304.8 ypg	2	9
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
+5	+0.38	4	33

2020 RECRUITS

1. Gervon Dexter, DT, Lake Wales, FL
2. Derek Wingo, LB, Fort Lauderdale, FL
3. Xzavier Henderson, WR, Miami, FL
4. Jahari Rogers, CB, Arlington, TX
5. Ja'Quavion Fraziars, WR, Dunnellon, FL
6. Issiah Walker Jr., OT, Miami, FL
7. Ethan Pouncey, CB, Winter Park, FL
8. Antwaun Powell, DE, Chesapeake, VA
9. Anthony Richardson, QB, Gainesville, FL
10. Johnnie Brown, DT, Sebring, FL
11. Princely Umanmielen, DE, Manor, TX
12. Joshua Braun, OT, Live Oak, FL
13. Rashad Torrence II, S, Marietta, GA
14. Avery Helm, CB, Missouri City, TX
15. Mordecai McDaniel, CB, Washington, DC
16. Lamar Goods, DT, Oakdale, CT
17. Jalen Lee, DT, Watson, LA
18. Leonard Manuel, WR, Fort Lauderdale, FL
19. Fenley Graham, CB, Lakeland, FL
20. Tre'Vez Johnson, S, Jacksonville, FL
21. Gerald Mincey, OT, Fort Lauderdale, FL
22. Jonathan Odom, TE, Tampa, FL
23. Richie Leonard IV, OG, Cocoa, FL
24. Jeremy Crawshaw, P, Sydney, Aus.

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Tim Casey

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	31.1	42
Defense	27.4	22
Margin	**+3.7**	**23**

Efficiency[2]		Rank
Offense	45.0%	34
Defense	37.3%	26
Margin	**+7.7%**	**14**

Explosiveness[3]		Rank
Offense	6.5	16
Defense	4.9	21
Margin	**+1.6**	**11**

Finishing Drives[4]		Rank
Offense	4.9	31
Defense	3.5	6
Margin	**+1.4**	**6**

Adjusted TO Margin[5]		Rank
Projected	0.0	69
Actual	5	32
Margin	**+5.0**	**24**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

8.96

The Florida defense recorded 49 sacks as a unit in 2019, and opponents attempted 390 passes against the Gators. As a result, Florida averaged a sack every 8.96 pass plays — the best sack rate in the SEC and second in the country behind Ohio State.

20.89%

Tackles for a loss, forced fumbles and passes defensed are considered havoc plays, and havoc rate is the percentage of total plays in which a defense creates havoc. Florida produced a 20.89 percent havoc rate in 2019, which was the highest mark in the SEC and sixth best in the country.

0.288

The Gators surrendered an average of 0.288 points per snap last season, which was the second-best mark in the SEC and ranked 13th in the country.

son has All-SEC potential, while fellow cornerback Kaiir Elam is a rising star after a breakout freshman season.

Grantham can make a lot happen with a pass rush and a pair of lockdown corners. But he also will need senior tackle Tedarrell Slaton to finally become a force inside; athletic junior Amari Burney, a former safety and linebacker, to find a home at nickel back; and senior safeties Shawn Davis and Brad Stewart Jr. to play to their potential. The back end of the defense was the unit's Achilles heel in 2019.

Sophomore linebacker Mohamoud Diabate, five-star freshman lineman Gervon Dexter and redshirt senior end Jeremiah Moon are among a host of havoc-causing Gators.

SPECIALISTS Gators security blanket Evan McPherson is back after making 34-of-38 field goals the past two seasons. Florida, though, will lose another of its unsung heroes in punter Tommy Townsend. The Gators hope Australian freshman Jeremy Crawshaw can continue the tradition of top punters from Down Under after Townsend placed 44-of-93 punts inside the 20. The Gators will look to find a playmaker fielding punts after finishing 13th in the 14-team SEC in average return.

FINAL ANALYSIS Mullen's championship promises made to fans before he'd even coached a game raised eyebrows and created lofty expectations. Two years later, the 48-year-old has the Gators ahead of schedule and positioned to contend for Florida's first SEC title since 2008.

Another playmaker or two must emerge on offense, and the line needs to vastly improve as Trask goes from being an unknown commodity to having a bull's-eye on his back. Several players on defense look to grow into key roles, but having no truly elite quarterbacks on the schedule will help.

UF's season could come down to two, maybe three games — an Oct. 10 visit from LSU, an Oct. 31 clash with Georgia in Jacksonville and, perhaps, a Sept. 26 trip to Tennessee.

Mullen is pleased with the program's trajectory and expects trophies to follow. "We want to develop consistent winners," he says. "If you do that, you have the opportunity to win championships. Whether this is the year or not, we'll find out."

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**8**	**Trevon Grimes (Sr.)**	83	Rick Wells (Sr.)
WR	1	Kadarius Toney (Sr.)	22	Dionte Marks (Fr.)
WR	15	Jacob Copeland (So.)		Xzavier Henderson (Fr.)
LT	**72**	**Stone Forsythe (Sr.)**	76	Richard Gouraige (So.)
LG	76	Richard Gouraige (So.)	62	Griffin McDowell (So.)
C	**61**	**Brett Heggie (Sr.)**	65	Kingsley Eguakun (Fr.)
RG	77	Ethan White (So.)		Joshua Braun (Fr.)
RT	**56**	**Jean Delance (Sr.)**	70	Michael Tarquin (Fr.)
TE	**84**	**Kyle Pitts (Jr.)**	9	Keon Zipperer (So.)
QB	**11**	**Kyle Trask (Sr.)**	5	Emory Jones (So.)
RB	27	Dameon Pierce (Jr.)	20	Malik Davis (Jr.)

DEFENSE (5)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	17	Zachary Carter (Jr.)	97	Khris Bogle (So.)
NT	**55**	**Kyree Campbell (Sr.)**	93	Elijah Conliffe (Jr.)
DT	56	Tedarrell Slaton (Sr.)	91	Marlon Dunlap Jr. (Sr.)
DE	6	Brenton Cox Jr. (So.)	**7**	**Jeremiah Moon (Sr.)**
LB	**51**	**Ventrell Miller (Jr.)**	34	Lacedrick Brunson (Jr.)
LB	41	James Houston IV (Jr.)	28	Ty'Ron Hopper (Fr.)
CB	**3**	**Marco Wilson (Jr.)**		Ethan Pouncey (Fr.)
CB	5	Kaiir Elam (So.)	23	Jaydon Hill (So.)
STAR	30	Amari Burney (Jr.)	25	Chester Kimbrough (So.)
S	2	Brad Stewart Jr. (Sr.)	21	Trey Dean III (Jr.)
S	**31**	**Shawn Davis (Sr.)**	13	Donovan Stiner (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	19	Evan McPherson (Jr.)	**KR**	15	Jacob Copeland (So.)
P		Jeremy Crawshaw (Fr.)	**PR**	1	Kadarius Toney (Sr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Kyle Trask	**354**	**237**	**2,941**	**25**	**7**
Feleipe Franks	71	54	698	5	3
Emory Jones	**38**	**25**	**267**	**3**	**0**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Lamical Perine	132	676	5.1	6
Dameon Pierce	**54**	**305**	**5.6**	**4**
Emory Jones	**42**	**256**	**6.1**	**4**
Josh Hammond	6	101	16.8	1
Malik Davis	**34**	**86**	**2.5**	**1**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Kyle Pitts	**54**	**649**	**12.0**	**5**
Van Jefferson	49	657	13.4	6
Lamical Perine	40	262	6.6	5
Freddie Swain	38	517	13.6	7
Trevon Grimes	**33**	**491**	**14.9**	**3**

KICKING: **Evan McPherson, 17-19 FGs, 98 pts.**
TACKLES: David Reese II, 92; **Ventrell Miller, 55**
SACKS: Jonathan Greenard, 10.0
INTERCEPTIONS: **Donovan Stiner, 4**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE GATORS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP FLORIDA

"They have a chance to be really special this year, but there are a lot of questions. Where are they in terms of talent and firepower? Can they beat Georgia? You feel really good about what they've done in comparison to the rest of the East, but they're still behind one school. ... The quarterback change made them a completely different program. They're a better, more aggressive offense with Kyle Trask. ... They have guys in that secondary who you can trust to cover in man, guys who can fly to the ball and then go play the run. ... Todd (Grantham) has a great third-down package. He really mixes it up. They can kill you there with the different pressure packages because of how talented they are at every position. ... They're still a step behind Georgia in recruiting. Dan Mullen is maybe the best project guy in recruiting, he can get more out of a three-star on offense than maybe anyone in the nation. But that's not Florida. You have win the big battles for the five-stars and flip them into NFL players. ... There's still a question of Dan as a big-game coach. He's a great play-caller, he's a great scheme guy, he's a great developer. But where is the signature win? ... In many ways Florida's 2020 comes down to Georgia. They could lose that game, win 10 and be a disappointment."

GEORGIA Bulldogs

National Forecast: **7** • SEC East Prediction: **2** • Projected Record: **10-2, 6-2 SEC**

George Pickens

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Kirby Smart
Record at School: 44-12 (4 years)
Career Record: 44-12 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Todd Monken
Defensive Coordinator: Dan Lanning
Location: Athens, GA
Stadium: Sanford Stadium (92,746)

KEY BULLDOGS

GEORGE PICKENS, WR The 6'3", 190-pound wideout led the team in receiving with 49 catches for 727 yards and eight touchdowns.

TREY HILL, OL Hill made 14 starts at center in 2019 and was the only UGA offensive lineman to start every game last season.

MALIK HERRING, DE The Forsyth, Ga., native has a chance to be a true game-wrecker for the Bulldog defense.

KEY LOSSES

JAKE FROMM, QB The Bulldogs could really miss his steady hand, big-game experience and tendency to play lights out vs. Florida.

D'ANDRE SWIFT, RB After appearing in all 43 games of his three-year career and rushing for 1,000 yards twice, Swift has moved on to the NFL.

ANDREW THOMAS, LT The Lithonia, Ga., native was an absolute rock for the Bulldogs whether he played left tackle or right tackle.

RISING STAR

TRAVON WALKER gave Bulldogs fans a glimpse of his immense talent as a freshman but he was basically a role player. Now that it's just him and Malik Herring at defensive end, Walker will see plenty more snaps and should make more plays like his game-clinching sack at Auburn.

Georgia finds itself in a familiar situation in Kirby Smart's fifth year with the program. Expectations are high once again, and it's due in large part to a tremendous amount of talent across the board.

The Bulldogs have finished No. 3, No. 1, No. 2, and No. 1 the last four years in the 247Sports Composite team rankings, and for the first time since Smart took the job in December 2015, the roster is completely his. There are no holdovers from the Mark Richt era, and the defensive-minded head coach has remade several positions on the roster.

Coming off a third straight 11-win regular season, UGA is one of the favorites once again in the SEC East. If you look at the national championship odds, you'll find the program somewhere between 10 to 1 and 12 to 1, maybe a tad higher. The defense is as deep, experienced and talented as any the Bulldogs have seen in recent memory, and the offense is undergoing a makeover with a new quarterback and offensive coordinator.

Winning hasn't been a problem for UGA in a long time, but winning big is something that has eluded the program for decades. Due to the amount of talent on the roster, that has a chance to change in the near future.

OFFENSE Smart saw the need for change after the 2019 season. Georgia went 12–2 on the year with a second straight loss in the SEC Championship Game. It was a season that most programs would celebrate, but it was also pretty clear that something wasn't right on the offensive side of the ball.

Smart attempted to remedy that in January when he hired Todd Monken as offensive coordinator. The price for landing Monken was ace recruiter James Coley, the Bulldogs' play-caller and quarterbacks coach in 2019, but it was one Smart was willing to pay.

Monken has fielded some highly effective offenses at Oklahoma State, where he was offensive coordinator, and Southern Miss, where he was head coach. He was also quite good at the NFL level with Tampa Bay and Cleveland. He'll have a brand-new quarterback in Jamie Newman, and the advantage gained by getting him on campus in January was almost completely wiped out when spring drills were canceled due to the spread of the coronavirus.

Losing those 15 practices (12 regular practices and three scrimmages) will force the Bulldogs to break in a new play-caller and a new triggerman in short order. They'll also be searching for a new running back after six different 1,000-yard performances in four seasons. Zamir White seems likely to shoulder most of the load.

The wide receiver position has been bolstered and returns its most productive weapon from a year ago in George Pickens, but the offensive line must replace four key contributors, including both tackles. It'll be a challenge for new position coach Matt Luke.

DEFENSE Smart used the moniker "no-name defense" on multiple occasions, but that doesn't speak to the program's talent level on that side of the ball. Defensive coordinator Dan Lanning, who got a $500,000 raise to

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	7	vs. Virginia #
Sept.	12	East Tennessee State
Sept.	19	at Alabama
Sept.	26	ULM
Oct.	3	Vanderbilt
Oct.	10	Auburn
Oct.	17	at Missouri
Oct.	31	vs. Florida %
Nov.	7	at South Carolina
Nov.	14	Tennessee
Nov.	21	at Kentucky
Nov.	28	Georgia Tech

#Atlanta %Jacksonville, FL

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 12-2, 7-1 SEC

Aug.	31	at Vanderbilt	W	30-6
Sept.	7	Murray State	W	63-17
Sept.	14	Arkansas State	W	55-0
Sept.	21	Notre Dame	W	23-17
Oct.	5	at Tennessee	W	43-14
Oct.	12	South Carolina (ot)	L	17-20
Oct.	19	Kentucky	W	21-0
Nov.	2	vs. Florida #	W	24-17
Nov.	9	Missouri	W	27-0
Nov.	16	at Auburn	W	21-14
Nov.	23	Texas A&M	W	19-13
Nov.	30	at Georgia Tech	W	52-7
Dec.	7	vs. LSU %	L	10-37
Jan.	1	vs. Baylor &	W	26-14

#Jacksonville %Atlanta &Sugar Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SEC	NATIONAL
Scoring	30.8 ppg	5	50
Rushing	185.1 ypg	5	41
Passing	223.0 ypg	5	72
Total	408.1 ypg	5	61
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	12.6 ppg	1	1
Rushing	74.6 ypg	1	1
Passing	201.1 ypg	5	31
Total	275.7 ypg	1	3
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
+3	+0.21	6	49

2020 RECRUITS

1. Kelee Ringo, CB, Scottsdale, AZ
2. Broderick Jones, OT, Lithonia, GA
3. Jalen Carter, DT, Apopka, FL
4. Darnell Washington, ATH, Las Vegas, NV
5. Mekhail Sherman, OLB, Washington, DC
6. Tate Ratledge, OT, Rome, GA
7. Kendall Milton, RB, Clovis, CA
8. Marcus Rosemy, WR, Fort Lauderdale, FL
9. Arian Smith, WR, Lakeland, FL
10. Sedrick Van Pran, C, New Orleans, LA
11. Jermaine Burton, WR, Calabasas, CA
12. Jalen Kimber, CB, Arlington, TX
13. Chad Lindberg, OT, League City, TX
14. Major Burns, S, Baton Rouge, LA
15. Nazir Stackhouse, DT, Decatur, GA
16. Carson Beck, QB, Jacksonville, FL
17. Daijun Edwards, RB, Moultrie, GA
18. Justin Robinson, WR, McDonough, GA
19. Warren Brinson, DT, Bradenton, FL
20. Austin Blaske, OT, Guyton, GA
21. Daran Branch, CB, Amite, LA
22. Devin Willock, OT, Paramus, NJ
23. Ladd McConkey, WR, Chatsworth, GA
24. Cameron Kinnie, DT, Suwanee, GA
25. Jared Zirkel, K, Kerrville, TX

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Chamberlain Smith

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	30.5	47
Defense	26.5	9
Margin	**+4.0**	**20**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	45.8%	24
Defense	34.2%	5
Margin	**+11.6%**	**9**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.1	46
Defense	4.3	2
Margin	**+1.8**	**8**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.8	49
Defense	3.3	1
Margin	**+1.5**	**4**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	4.5	27
Actual	3	43
Margin	**-1.5**	**81**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

0.189, 0.993

Not only did the Bulldogs lead the nation in scoring defense (12.6 ppg), but they also led the country in points allowed per play (0.189) and points allowed per possession (0.993).

82.4%

Georgia kept its opponents off the scoreboard on 140 of 170 drives last season. The Bulldogs' 82.4 percent stop rate was the best in the SEC and second-best nationally behind only Ohio State.

1.6%

One of the only blemishes on Georgia's defensive résumé from 2019 was its SEC-worst 1.60-percent interception rate. The Bulldogs picked off just eight of the 501 passes their opponents attempted. Only 11 FBS teams finished with a lower percentage.

$1.25 million this offseason, employed as many as 25 players to play significant roles in his first season manning that post. He used a rotation at every position but safety.

The Bulldogs were hit hardest up front, but five potential difference-makers return with defensive ends Malik Herring and Travon Walker leading the way.

When you combine inside and outside linebacker, UGA used 10 players in 2019, and nine of them are back. Monty Rice has returned after eschewing the 2020 NFL Draft. He'll call the defense and be the leader in the front seven. Edge rushers Nolan Smith and Azeez Ojulari have the raw talent to help UGA surge closer to the top of the SEC and nation in tackles for a loss and sacks.

The secondary is absolutely stacked. All but J.R. Reed, a safety who was a finalist for the Paycom Jim Thorpe Award in 2019, are back. Richard LeCounte III is one to watch after leading the Bulldogs in interceptions as a junior.

SPECIALISTS Former Alabama strength and conditioning coach Scott Cochran will have the special teams reins in 2020. It's his first on-field job, and he has to replace highly productive placekicker Rodrigo Blankenship. Punter Jake Camarda might fill those shoes, but the Bulldogs also signed the nation's No. 5 kicker in 2020, Jared Zirkel. All weapons are back in the return game. Dominick Blaylock and Kearis Jackson can handle punts, while James Cook and Demetris Robertson have experience handling kickoffs. Georgia isn't lacking for athletes when it comes to the complimentary special teams positions.

FINAL ANALYSIS If the offense jells, Georgia has as good of a chance as anyone to make a run. Newman showed that he had the goods in 2019, and if he and Monken can get on the same page, there's plenty of talent for the Bulldogs to post big plays and scare opposing defenses. The biggest concern for the defense is depth at safety, and that tells you where the Bulldogs are on that side of the ball. The front seven should be one of the best in the country, and the pieces are there to be elite in the back half. Smart's fifth team at UGA is probably his most talented.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (2)

WR	1	George Pickens (So.)		Marcus Rosemy (Fr.)
WR	16	Demetris Robertson (Sr.)	5	Matt Landers (Jr.)
WR	8	Dominick Blaylock (So.)	10	Kearis Jackson (So.)
LT	73	Xavier Truss (Fr.)		Broderick Jones (Fr.)
LG	54	Justin Shaffer (Sr.)	60	Clay Webb (Fr.)
C	**55**	**Trey Hill (Jr.)**		Sedrick Van Pran (Fr.)
RG	**74**	**Ben Cleveland (Sr.)**	50	Warren Ericson (So.)
RT	69	Jamaree Salyer (Jr.)	70	Warren McClendon (Fr.)
TE		Tre' McKitty (Sr.)		Darnell Washington (Fr.)
QB		Jamie Newman (Sr.)	13	Stetson Bennett (Jr.)
RB	3	Zamir White (So.)	4	James Cook (Jr.)

DEFENSE (8)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**10**	**Malik Herring (Sr.)**	44	Travon Walker (So.)
NT	**99**	**Jordan Davis (Jr.)**	91	Tymon Mitchell (Fr.)
DT	95	Devonte Wyatt (Sr.)	5	Julian Rochester (Sr.)
OLB	**13**	**Azeez Ojulari (So.)**	4	Nolan Smith (So.)
MLB	**32**	**Monty Rice (Sr.)**	25	Quay Walker (Jr.)
OLB	17	Nakobe Dean (So.)	41	Channing Tindall (Jr.)
CB	**27**	**Eric Stokes (Jr.)**		Kelee Ringo (Fr.)
CB	3	Tyson Campbell (Jr.)	**14**	**DJ Daniel (Sr.)**
NB	7	Tyrique Stevenson (So.)	**23**	**Mark Webb (Sr.)**
SS	16	Lewis Cine (So.)	23	Mark Webb (Sr.)
FS	**2**	**Richard LeCounte (Sr.)**		Chris Smith (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Jared Zirkel (Fr.)	**KR**	4	James Cook (Jr.)
P	90	Jake Camarda (Jr.)	**PR**	8	Dominick Blaylock (So.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jake Fromm	385	234	2,860	24	5
Stetson Bennett	**27**	**20**	**260**	**2**	**1**
Nathan Priestley	**2**	**1**	**2**	**0**	**0**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
D'Andre Swift	196	1,218	6.2	7
Brian Herrien	103	490	4.8	6
Zamir White	**78**	**408**	**5.2**	**3**
James Cook	**31**	**188**	**6.1**	**2**
Kenny McIntosh	**25**	**174**	**7.0**	**2**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
George Pickens	**49**	**727**	**14.8**	**8**
Lawrence Cager	33	476	14.4	4
Demetris Robertson	**30**	**333**	**11.1**	**3**
D'Andre Swift	24	216	9.0	1
Tyler Simmons	21	255	12.1	1

KICKING: Rodrigo Blankenship, 27-33 FGs, 127 pts.
TACKLES: **Monty Rice, 89**; Tae Crowder, 62
SACKS: **Azeez Ojulari, 5.5**
INTERCEPTIONS: **Richard LeCounte, 4**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE BULLDOGS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP GEORGIA

"D'Andre Swift is gone and so is most of that OL, but the whole key is going to be the quarterback play. Jamie Newman is completely different than what they've done in the past, so expect a quarterback run game and RPOs, not as much dropback. Maybe none? How can they adapt that offense to fit his skill set? Will they bend with that? With (offensive coordinator) Todd Monken, they will be different, but how much depends on what the kid can handle. ... I think defensively they'll be as good as they always are. They're great at never making you comfortable. For as athletic as they are, they're still smart, too, meaning they're going to throw different coverages at you, maybe more than necessary. You get nothing for free against Kirby Smart. ... The nose tackle (Jordan Davis) is dominant, they're disciplined and the front and linebackers have looked a little bit more like those Bama-era Kirby defenses. Longer and faster, longer and faster. They can drop into coverage, they can play big-boy stuff on the run. ... They have to be that level this year. The pressure is real to win in Atlanta, so you have to lead with defense. ... Recruiting-wise, it's them, it's Alabama and it's everyone else. They're out-recruiting the division by a mile. If they fix the offense, they're national title contenders."

KENTUCKY Wildcats

National Forecast: **32** · SEC East Prediction: **4** · Projected Record: **7-5, 4-4 SEC**

Jamar Watson

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Mark Stoops
Record at School: 44-44 (7 years)
Career Record: 44-44 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinators: Eddie Gran, Darin Hinshaw
Defensive Coordinator: Brad White
Location: Lexington, KY
Stadium: Kroger Field (61,000)

KEY WILDCATS

LANDON YOUNG, OT Started all 13 games in 2019 and was named captain of Allstate AFCA Good Works Team.

DRAKE JACKSON, C One of three former U.S. Army All-Americans projected to start on the offensive line. Has started 33 consecutive games.

JAMAR WATSON, OLB Tied for sixth in the SEC in sacks (6.5) and eighth in tackles for a loss (11.5) after taking over for Josh Allen.

KEY LOSSES

LYNN BOWDEN JR., WR/QB Won the Paul Hornung Award as college football's most versatile player after saving UK's season.

LOGAN STENBERG, OG Anchored Kentucky's vaunted offensive line for three years while starting 39 of 52 games in his college career.

AHMAD WAGNER, WR Wagner was a potent weapon down the field, frequently drawing interference penalties or catching deep balls.

RISING STAR

Redshirt freshman outside linebacker **J.J. WEAVER** got his feet wet in 2019 with six tackles in three games, but the former four-star recruit could compete for a starting job this fall. UK coaches pitched Weaver on being the next Josh Allen during recruiting.

Few teams are likely to be more polarizing than Kentucky leading up to the 2020 season. Pundits will look at the roster and see that Lynn Bowden Jr., who almost single-handedly carried the offense for the final eight games, is gone and assume that Mark Stoops' program is poised for a step back. Those inside the UK locker room will point to unprecedented returning depth at almost every position as proof the team might be poised to make a run at its second double-digit win season in three years.

Stoops has led Kentucky to four consecutive bowl games and has dug out of the hole of his 2–10 debut season in 2013 to bring his career record in seven seasons to .500 at 44–44. Now the question is whether the program has reached its peak at playing in mid-tier bowl games each year or if it could take another jump to compete with Georgia and Florida in the SEC East. "We're going forward and we want to continue to push forward," Stoops says. "I want to see it go to another level."

OFFENSE There are options at quarterback, but all have questions. Former starter Terry Wilson should be back after suffering a season-ending knee injury in the second game last season, but it is unclear how much rust he will need to shake off. Sawyer Smith started three games after Wilson's injury but struggled while battling shoulder and wrist ailments. Auburn transfer Joey Gatewood, a former top-50 recruit and powerful runner, could push for the starting job even if Wilson is healthy, but he needs a waiver from the NCAA to play immediately.

Quarterback uncertainty should be eased thanks to a strong rushing game led by a stellar offensive line and running backs Asim Rose, Kavosiey Smoke and Chris Rodriguez Jr., who combined for 1,975 yards last season. Smoke is the burner of the returning trio, and Rodriguez is the power back. Rose is a blend of the two and kept the starting job thanks in part to his steadying presence as a blocker when needed.

The offensive line lost All-SEC guard Logan Stenberg but returns three former U.S. Army All-Americans in left tackle Landon Young, center Drake Jackson and right tackle Darian Kinnard. It will be important for left guard Kenneth Horsey and other younger players like backup center Quintin Wilson to push for rotation spots with Young, Jackson and right guard Luke Fortner graduating after the season.

Kentucky's passing game was nonexistent for most of 2019. The receivers embraced their roles as blockers in order to win games, but there are legitimate questions about how much development was lost for some of the promising young players at the position. Josh Ali will look to build on an encouraging showing in the Belk Bowl, where he caught the game-winning touchdown; he hopes to emerge as a true go-to threat as a senior. Clevan Thomas Jr. should provide another veteran presence in the slot, but Kentucky needs several younger players to step up. There should be snaps available for freshmen.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Eastern Michigan
Sept.	12	at Florida
Sept.	19	Kent State
Sept.	26	South Carolina
Oct.	3	at Auburn
Oct.	10	Eastern Illinois
Oct.	17	Vanderbilt
Oct.	24	at Missouri
Nov.	7	at Tennessee
Nov.	14	Mississippi State
Nov.	21	Georgia
Nov.	28	at Louisville

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5, 3-5 SEC

Aug.	31	Toledo	W	38-24
Sept.	7	Eastern Michigan	W	38-17
Sept.	14	Florida	L	21-29
Sept.	21	at Mississippi State	L	13-28
Sept.	28	at South Carolina	L	7-24
Oct.	12	Arkansas	W	24-20
Oct.	19	at Georgia	L	0-21
Oct.	26	Missouri	W	29-7
Nov.	9	Tennessee	L	13-17
Nov.	16	at Vanderbilt	W	38-14
Nov.	23	Tennessee-Martin	W	50-7
Nov.	30	Louisville	W	45-13
Dec.	31	vs. Virginia Tech #	W	37-30

#Belk Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SEC	NATIONAL
Scoring	27.2 ppg	8	76
Rushing	278.8 ypg	1	4
Passing	113.7 ypg	14	127
Total	392.5 ypg	9	76
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	19.3 ppg	4	14
Rushing	156.8 ypg	11	64
Passing	167.8 ypg	1	2
Total	324.6 ypg	5	21
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
-1	-0.08	10	70

2020 RECRUITS

1. Justin Rogers, DT, Oak Park, MI
2. Michael Drennen II, ATH, Dublin, OH
3. Josaih Hayes, DT, Horn Lake, MS
4. Sam Anaele, DE, Deerfield Beach, FL
5. Joel Williams, ATH, Baton Rouge, LA
6. Jeremy Flax, OT, Detroit, MI*
7. John Young, OT, Louisville, KY
8. JuTahn McClain, RB, Fairfield, OH
9. Deondre Buford, OT, Detroit, MI
10. Tre'Vonn Rybka, DT, Dickson, TN
11. R.J. Adams, OG, Woodbridge, VA
12. Vito Tisdale, S, Bowling Green, KY
13. Beau Allen, QB, Lexington, KY
14. Torrance Davis, RB, Cleveland, OH
15. Earnest Sanders IV, WR, Mount Morris, MI
16. Octavious Oxendine, DT, Radcliff, KY
17. Kalil Branham, WR, Columbus, OH
18. Andru Phillips, CB, Mauldin, SC
19. Izayah Cummings, WR, Louisville, KY
20. Rickey Hyatt, S, Westerville, OH
21. Josh Jones, OT, Phenix City, AL
22. D'Eryk Jackson, LB, Dublin, GA
23. Carrington Valentine, CB, Cincinnati, OH

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Matt Hernandez

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	29.2	78
Defense	27.0	17
Margin	**+2.2**	**43**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	42.3%	69
Defense	40.1%	50
Margin	**+2.2%**	**61**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.1	39
Defense	5.3	39
Margin	**+0.8**	**24**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.7	59
Defense	4.6	78
Margin	**+0.1**	**67**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	4.1	30
Actual	-1	69
Margin	**-5.1**	**107**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

27.78

An average of 27.78 seconds elapsed between offensive snaps for the Kentucky offense in 2019, which was the slowest pace in the SEC, and slower than all but seven other FBS teams.

6.32

Kentucky didn't simply settle for "three yards and a cloud of dust." Kentucky led the SEC and ranked second nationally with an average of 6.32 yards per rushing attempt in 2019. The Wildcats also led the conference with an average of 15.92 rushing attempts between touchdowns.

0.034

Kentucky did an excellent job separating the football from opposing ball carriers in 2019. The Wildcats forced an average of 0.034 fumbles per carry in 2019, which was the best rate in the SEC and ranked third in the country.

Tight ends Justin Rigg and Keaton Upshaw might be the most reliable of all the returning pass-catchers, so Kentucky will likely use plenty of two-tight end sets to get them on the field.

DEFENSE The bulk of Kentucky's 2019 defense will return in 2020, but the defensive line must replace some losses. Nose guard Quinton Bohanna is a dark horse All-SEC candidate. He is likely to be flanked by Phil Hoskins, who was granted a sixth year of eligibility after missing all of 2019, and Josh Paschal, who moved from outside linebacker to defensive end this spring. Depth should be a plus, and defensive line was also the strength of the 2020 signing class, led by five-star Michigan native Justin Rogers.

Linebacker Jamar "Boogie" Watson's junior stats last season look strikingly similar to Josh Allen's the year before Allen's historic senior year. Even if he does not quite make the jump Allen did, Watson should anchor Kentucky's pass rush as a senior in 2020. Inside linebackers DeAndre Square, Chris Oats and Jamin Davis have shown great potential in the last two years, with Square poised to take on a more vocal leadership role.

Some young defensive backs more than held their own while learning on the job in 2019 and should be poised for a significant jump. Safety Yusuf Corker and cornerback Brandin Echols flashed All-SEC-level talent at times during their first year as starters, and Davonte Robinson, a former part-time starter at nickel back, is set to return after missing all of 2019 with injury. LSU transfer Kelvin Joseph received rave reviews from his teammates while sitting out last season and could start opposite Echols at cornerback.

SPECIALISTS Ray Guy Award winner Max Duffy is back at punter for his final year of eligibility at 27. Kicker was a season-long problem for Kentucky in 2019, so Stoops will hope either Chance Poore or walk-on Matt Ruffolo is able to take control of the job.

FINAL ANALYSIS If a quarterback emerges — and that's a big if — there is enough talent and depth elsewhere to make it easy to imagine a special season for Kentucky in 2020. With more uncertainty than ever in college football, it's not out of the question that Stoops' team could land near the top of the SEC East.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**6**	**Josh Ali (Sr.)**	81	Isaiah Epps (Jr.)
WR	89	Allen Dailey Jr. (Jr)	85	Bryce Oliver (So.)
WR	**18**	**Clevan Thomas Jr. (Jr.)**		Michael Drennen II (Fr.)
LT	**67**	**Landon Young (Sr.)**		Jeremy Flax (So.)
LG	68	Kenneth Horsey (So.)	61	Austin Dotson (Jr.)
C	**52**	**Drake Jackson (Sr.)**	60	Quintin Wilson (So.)
RG	**79**	**Luke Fortner (Sr.)**	75	Eli Cox (Fr.)
RT	**70**	**Darian Kinnard (Jr.)**	66	Naasir Watkins (Jr.)
TE	**83**	**Justin Rigg (Sr.)**	88	Keaton Upshaw (So.)
QB	3	Terry Wilson (Sr.)	2	Joey Gatewood (So.)
RB	**10**	**Asim Rose (Sr.)**	20	Kavosiey Smoke (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

Returning Starters in Bold

DL	92	Phil Hoskins (Sr.)	59	Kordell Looney (Sr.)
DL	**95**	**Quinton Bohanna (Sr.)**	50	Marquan McCall (Jr.)
DL	**4**	**Josh Paschal (Jr.)**	55	Davoan Hawkins (So.)
OLB	15	Jordan Wright (Jr.)	13	J.J. Weaver (Fr.)
MLB	**17**	**DeAndre Square (Jr.)**	6	Jared Casey (Fr.)
MLB	22	Chris Oats (Jr.)	44	Jamin Davis (Jr.)
OLB	**31**	**Jamar Watson (Sr.)**	47	K.D. McDaniel (Fr.)
CB	**26**	**Brandin Echols (Sr.)**	32	Jamari Brown (So.)
CB	1	Kelvin Joseph (So.)	**27**	**Cedrick Dort Jr. (Jr.)**
SS	9	Davonte Robinson (Sr.)	23	Tyrell Ajian (Jr.)
FS	**29**	**Yusuf Corker (Jr.)**	21	Quandre Mosely (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	96	Matt Ruffolo (Sr.)	**KR**	33	Travis Tisdale (Fr.)
P	93	Max Duffy (Sr.)	**PR**	6	Josh Ali (Sr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Sawyer Smith	**126**	**57**	**690**	**4**	**5**
Lynn Bowden Jr.	74	35	403	3	3
Terry Wilson	**52**	**33**	**360**	**2**	**0**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Lynn Bowden Jr.	185	1,468	7.9	13
Asim Rose	**149**	**826**	**5.5**	**6**
Kavosiey Smoke	**101**	**616**	**6.1**	**6**
Christopher Rodriguez Jr.	**71**	**533**	**7.5**	**6**
Travis Tisdale	**5**	**57**	**11.4**	**1**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Lynn Bowden Jr.	30	348	11.6	1
Josh Ali	**23**	**233**	**10.1**	**3**
Ahmad Wagner	15	254	16.9	2
Justin Rigg	**11**	**128**	**11.6**	**0**
Clevan Thomas Jr.	**11**	**99**	**9.0**	**1**

KICKING: **Chance Poore, 5-8 FGs, 39 pts.**
TACKLES: **Yusuf Corker, 74; DeAndre Square, 69**
SACKS: Calvin Taylor Jr., 8.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Jordan Griffin, 2

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE WILDCATS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP KENTUCKY

"This could be a big transition year. The remarkable thing about Mark Stoops is that he's been there long enough to eliminate the gap seasons between talented senior classes. It used to be that Kentucky would make a run and then fall off to a three- or four-win season turning guys over. He's shored that up, but that doesn't mean they're immune. … They're really, really gonna have to run the ball to win. Lynn Bowden Jr. was such a miracle for them running and passing, now they're going back to almost nothing at QB. They return some really solid backs, so we expect them to lean on that early on. (Offensive coordinator) Eddie Gran does a great job adjusting to personnel; they barely threw the ball at all two seasons ago when they broke out. They can find a way to get productive with limited options. … It's a really solid, effective defense. They have Mark's identity, you can see his Florida State stuff, you can see his family's style in there. They've been a team where, hey, you're physical in a league where everyone is, but for a long time teams wouldn't expect that from Kentucky, so they got caught off guard. They're losing some guys up front who were nasty, that's going to hurt them. … The best thing going for them is that they're so many years into this system that this isn't a new situation."

MISSOURI Tigers

National Forecast: **52** · SEC East Prediction: **6** · Projected Record: **5-7, 2-6 SEC**

Nick Bolton

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Eliah Drinkwitz
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 12-1 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Curtis Luper
Defensive Coordinator: Ryan Walters
Location: Columbia, MO
Stadium: Memorial Stadium (61,620)

KEY TIGERS

NICK BOLTON, LB In his first year of real action, led Mizzou in tackles and graded out as the best power-conference linebacker per Pro Football Focus.

LARRY ROUNTREE III, RB Needs 451 yards to move into second all-time in rushing at Mizzou.

KOBIE WHITESIDE, DT Both a space-eater (310 pounds) and a playmaker, with 6.5 sacks among his 27 tackles in 2019.

KEY LOSSES

JORDAN ELLIOTT, DT Led Mizzou with 8.5 tackles for a loss and invaded the backfield against both run and pass.

CALE GARRETT, LB Recorded five TFLs and three interceptions in just five games before a season-ending injury.

DEMARKUS ACY, CB Big, physical cover man who recorded three INTs and 15 pass breakups over his final two seasons in Columbia.

RISING STAR

Missouri could start almost exclusively juniors and seniors on defense, but sophomore **STACY BROWN** should be an exception. The Duncanville, Texas, native put on 20 pounds and played in 11 games as a true freshman, and he looks the part of a star at nickel back.

The 2019 football season did not play out as expected for Missouri and head coach Barry Odom. Mizzou had recovered from a season-opening upset loss to Wyoming to win five games in a row. The defense was thriving, and quarterback Kelly Bryant, a Clemson graduate transfer, was doing what he was brought to Columbia to do. But then the progress suddenly stopped. Bryant got dinged up and grew less elusive. The offensive line stopped opening holes. The receiving corps was an injury-riddled revolving door. Mizzou lost five games in a row, averaging just nine points per game in that stretch.

The Tigers beat Arkansas to finish 6–6, which would have been good enough to go bowling if the NCAA hadn't upheld a one-year postseason ban stemming from the actions of a tutor. But the disappointment was palpable, and athletic director Jim Sterk fired Odom, replacing him with Eliah Drinkwitz.

A former Gus Malzahn protégé, the 37-year-old Drinkwitz led Appalachian State to a 13–1 season in his first year as a head coach. He kept a few members of Odom's defensive coaching staff, including coordinator Ryan Walters, and the Tigers will hope to combine last season's defensive prowess with offensive rejuvenation.

OFFENSE Before spring football was canceled, Mizzou was embarking on a four-way QB competition featuring TCU transfer Shawn Robinson, two-year backup Taylor Powell, redshirt freshman Connor Bazelak, and incoming first-year Brady Cook. Bazelak started the final game of last season but tore his ACL. Powell got a more extensive audition in 2019 but completed just 47 percent of his passes. One assumes that Robinson is the front-runner. A former blue-chipper, Robinson has running ability that no one else in the competition can boast. But Mizzou doesn't need potential in 2020 — it needs production. And the Tigers really could have used spring practices to enhance familiarity.

The new starting QB will have a strong set of running backs next to him. Larry Rountree III has rushed for at least 700 yards in all three of his seasons in Columbia, peaking with 1,216 in 2018. Last season was a struggle at times, but if the supporting cast does its part, Rountree will do his. Drinkwitz will likely have some fun with Tyler Badie, too. The junior has solid vision and agility and has caught 44 passes in two seasons.

Last year's top three receiving targets are gone, so Drinkwitz will be making do with a makeshift cast: Virginia Tech and Ball State transfer Damon Hazelton, junior Jalen Knox (victim of a major sophomore slump last fall), former walk-on Barrett Banister, and tight end Daniel Parker Jr., among others.

After improving through the first half of 2019, the line's effectiveness vanished. And now three starters are gone. Three veteran juniors do still return, as do a host of sophomores who got their feet wet. This is a big unit — the top eight returnees average 6'6", 321 — but it's one that has to redeem itself a bit in 2020.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Central Arkansas
Sept.	12	Vanderbilt
Sept.	19	at South Carolina
Sept.	26	Eastern Michigan
Oct.	3	at Tennessee
Oct.	10	at BYU
Oct.	17	Georgia
Oct.	24	Kentucky
Nov.	7	at Mississippi State
Nov.	14	at Florida
Nov.	21	Louisiana
Nov.	28	Arkansas

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 6-6, 3-5 SEC

Aug.	31	at Wyoming	L	31-37
Sept.	7	West Virginia	W	38-7
Sept.	14	SE Missouri State	W	50-0
Sept.	21	South Carolina	W	34-14
Oct.	5	Troy	W	42-10
Oct.	12	Ole Miss	W	38-27
Oct.	19	at Vanderbilt	L	14-21
Oct.	26	at Kentucky	L	7-29
Nov.	9	at Georgia	L	0-27
Nov.	16	Florida	L	6-23
Nov.	23	Tennessee	L	20-24
Nov.	29	at Arkansas	W	24-14

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SEC	NATIONAL
Scoring	25.3 ppg	10	93
Rushing	151.7 ypg	9	74
Passing	222.6 ypg	6	73
Total	374.3 ypg	10	93
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	19.4 ppg	5	16
Rushing	132.8 ypg	6	31
Passing	179.3 ypg	2	6
Total	312.0 ypg	3	14
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
+1	+0.08	7	53

2020 RECRUITS

1. Javian Hester, WR, Tulsa, OK
2. Kris Abrams-Draine, WR, Spanish Fort, AL
3. Elijah Young, RB, Knoxville, TN
4. Jay Maclin, WR, Saint Louis, MO
5. Drake Heismeyer, OG, Saint Charles, MO
6. Mitchell Walters, OT, Saint Louis, MO
7. Montra Edwards, DT, Lexington, MS
8. Brady Cook, QB, Saint Louis, MO
9. Ennis Rakestraw Jr., CB, Duncanville, TX
10. Ben Key, DE, Los Angeles, CA*
11. Jaylon Carlies, ATH, Winter Garden, FL
12. Will Norris, LB, Columbia, MO
13. Tyler Jones, S, Winter Garden, FL
14. Johnny Walker Jr., LB, Tampa, FL
15. Chance Luper, WR, N. Richland Hills, TX
16. Dylan Spencer, OT, Madison, MS
17. Harrison Mevis, K, Warsaw, IN

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Missouri Athletics

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	28.7	89
Defense	27.4	24
Margin	**+1.3**	**52**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	40.7%	83
Defense	34.2%	4
Margin	**+6.5%**	**24**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.3	99
Defense	4.9	18
Margin	**+0.4**	**52**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.0	106
Defense	4.3	46
Margin	**-0.3**	**89**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	3.9	34
Actual	1	53
Margin	**-2.9**	**93**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

16.22%

Missouri scored six non-offensive touchdowns in 2019, which tied for third most nationally. Overall, the Tigers scored 37 total touchdowns, meaning 16.22 percent of Mizzou's TDs came on either defense or special teams — the highest in the country.

19.32

Only one SEC defense ranked among the bottom third nationally in sack rate. Missouri brought the quarterback down just 19 times in 367 tries last season — an average of one sack every 19.32 opportunities, last in the league and 101st nationally.

111.83

Missouri posted a defensive pass efficiency rating of 111.83 last season, which ranked among the top 10 nationally — though Alabama (109.75), LSU (110.68), and Georgia (111.44) eked past Mizzou in the SEC.

DEFENSE Mizzou boasted one of the sturdiest run defenses in the SEC in 2019, and while tackle Jordan Elliott was a big part of that, his is the only major departure. Tackle Kobie Whiteside returns, as do the top three ends. Granted, that trio combined for just three sacks, and the pass rush has been a concern for a few years now. The experience level is high, if nothing else, and the sturdiness against the run should continue.

Cale Garrett was maybe the best linebacker in the country through five games but lost the rest of his senior season to a torn pectoral. When he went out, it was another former unheralded recruit, Nick Bolton, who finished the year as Pro Football Focus' highest-graded power-conference linebacker. He is outstanding. Junior Cameron Wilkins and sophomore Devin Nicholson saw playing time in Garrett's absence as well.

Despite the lack of a pass rush, Missouri led the country in allowing just a 50.3 percent completion rate and ranked ninth in passer rating allowed (111.8). The safety corps should be dynamite again. Seniors Tyree Gillespie and Joshuah Bledsoe combined for 17 breakups and eight TFLs and will once again patrol, and while last year's top two nickel backs are gone, sophomore Stacy Brown looks right out of central casting. The cornerback unit took a hit, however, losing DeMarkus Acy to expired eligibility and Christian Holmes to transfer. Junior Jarvis Ware should be ready to fill a No. 1 corner's responsibilities, but the No. 2 role is up for grabs.

SPECIALISTS Punter and longtime placekicker Tucker McCann is gone, as is punt returner Richaud Floyd, who finished his career with three TDs. Drinkwitz did sign highly touted kicker Harrison Mevis, but relying on a freshman is a scary proposition. In the return game, Badie has experience on kickoffs, but that's about it. This unit is a blank slate.

FINAL ANALYSIS Drinkwitz still doesn't know what he's got at quarterback thanks to the abbreviated spring session, and the Tigers could be underdogs in all five road games (South Carolina, Tennessee, BYU, Mississippi State, Florida). That doesn't offer a ton of margin for error — if the Tigers bowl in 2020, Drinkwitz's first season will have been a success.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (4)

WR		Damon Hazelton (Sr.)	84	Maurice Massey (Fr.)
WR	9	Jalen Knox (Jr.)		Javian Hester (Fr.)
WR	11	Barrett Banister (Jr.)	10	C.J. Boone (Fr.)
LT	50	Hyrin White (Jr.)	64	Bobby Lawrence (So.)
LG	72	Xavier Delgado (So.)	66	Jack Buford (Fr.)
C		Michael Maietti (Sr.)	54	Luke Griffin (Fr.)
RG	**59**	**Case Cook (Jr.)**	73	Mike Ruth (So.)
RT	**79**	**Larry Borom (Jr.)**	76	Javon Foster (So.)
TE	**82**	**Daniel Parker Jr. (Jr.)**	88	Logan Christopherson (Jr.)
QB	3	Shawn Robinson (Jr.)	8	Connor Bazelak (Fr.)
RB	**34**	**Larry Rountree III (Sr.)**	1	Tyler Badie (Jr.)

DEFENSE (7)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**93**	**Tre Williams (Sr.)**	49	Sci Martin Jr. (Sr.)
DT	**78**	**Kobie Whiteside (Sr.)**	99	Isaiah McGuire (So.)
DT	97	Akial Byers (Sr.)	90	Markell Utsey (Sr.)
DE	**39**	**Chris Turner (Sr.)**	28	Jatorian Hansford (Jr.)
OLB	**32**	**Nick Bolton (Jr.)**	25	Jamal Brooks (Sr.)
MLB	58	Devin Nicholson (So.)	40	Cameron Wilkins (Jr.)
CB	**8**	**Jarvis Ware (Jr.)**	24	Ishmael Burdine (Fr.)
CB	14	Adam Sparks (Sr.)	5	Chris Shearin (So.)
NB	7	Stacy Brown (So.)	26	Aidan Harrison (Fr.)
SS	**9**	**Tyree Gillespie (Sr.)**	4	Jalani Williams (Fr.)
FS	**18**	**Joshuah Bledsoe (Sr.)**	31	Martez Manuel (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Harrison Mevis (Fr.)	**KR**	1	Tyler Badie (Jr.)
P	Harrison Mevis (Fr.)	**PR**	1	Tyler Badie (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Kelly Bryant	292	181	2,215	15	6
Taylor Powell	**62**	**29**	**297**	**1**	**2**
Connor Bazelak	**21**	**15**	**144**	**0**	**0**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Larry Rountree III	**186**	**829**	**4.5**	**9**
Tyler Badie	**108**	**457**	**4.2**	**3**
Kelly Bryant	106	242	2.3	1
Dawson Downing	**40**	**227**	**5.7**	**1**
Simi Bakare	**8**	**37**	**4.6**	**0**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Tyler Badie	32	356	11.1	5
Jonathan Nance	31	458	14.8	4
Johnathon Johnson	29	294	10.1	0
Barrett Banister	**27**	**246**	**9.1**	**1**
Albert Okwuegbunam	26	306	11.8	6

KICKING: Tucker McCann, 16-22 FGs, 82 pts.
TACKLES: **Nick Bolton, 107; Tyree Gillespie, 50**
SACKS: **Kobie Whiteside, 6.5**
INTERCEPTIONS: Khalil Oliver, 3

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE TIGERS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP MISSOURI

"If we're being positive, there's enough talent to run Eli Drinkwitz's offense, and it's an attractive system, so he should be able to recruit. But most coaches don't look at Appalachian State's run last year and credit Eli. That was Scott Satterfield's program for years. ... They don't have an SEC quarterback. The TCU kid (Shawn Robinson) has the best chance and will probably get the job with (offensive coordinator) Curtis Luper joining the staff. ... Eli's system uses more run that you might think. They're going to run out of no-huddle and spread, and if they can come out in a bunch of different looks, maybe they can sneak up on some defenses this year. ... The offensive line was bad last year, fundamentally bad. Bad technique. That's the most important area for them after finding a quarterback. They don't have any offensive weapons; the best player is probably the Virginia Tech transfer at receiver (Damon Hazelton). ... The good news is that they kept (defensive coordinator) Ryan Walters, who is a rising star. It was a good continuity move, too, which helps a lot going into fall camp without a full spring practice. ... The two top players, (Nick) Bolton and (Kobie) Whiteside, are starters on most teams in the league."

SOUTH CAROLINA Gamecocks

National Forecast: **47** · SEC East Prediction: **5** · Projected Record: **6-6, 3-5 SEC**

Shi Smith

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Will Muschamp
Record at School: 26-25 (4 years)
Career Record: 54-46 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Bobo
Defensive Coordinator: Travaris Robinson
Location: Columbia, SC
Stadium: Williams-Brice Stadium (80,250)

KEY GAMECOCKS

RYAN HILINSKI, QB Completed 58.1 percent of his passes for 2,300 yards and 11 touchdowns last year.

MARSHAWN LLOYD, RB The blue-chip running back recruit isn't proven in college, but the Gamecocks have nobody else to tote the ball.

SHI SMITH, WR Smith is the only deep threat on the team who has actually done it in a game, and the only one of USC's top four pass catchers who returns.

KEY LOSSES

BRYAN EDWARDS, WR Took the school's career records for catches and receiving yardage with him.

JAVON KINLAW, DT A force in the middle of the Gamecocks line, Kinlaw could shut down opposing running backs and quarterbacks with equal aggression.

T.J. BRUNSON, LB Second on the team with 77 tackles, Brunson also broke up five passes and had an interception.

RISING STAR

MARSHAWN LLOYD is the highest-rated running back USC has signed since Marcus Lattimore and will have a guaranteed chance to make an impact. The Gamecocks have no proven running backs, and little experience among the returners. Lloyd will get the ball early and often.

Will Muschamp is entering his fifth season at South Carolina. That may seem difficult to believe after November was marked by public declarations on his status by USC's school president, Board of Trustees and finally the athletics director, and also after a 4–8 year in which every bit of trust and belief Muschamp had earned with a 9–4 season in 2017 vanished. Some mentioned a hefty buyout, while others mentioned USC's lack of football history as a reason to keep Muschamp; but regardless of why, he's back.

Only three USC assistants return in the same roles they had a year ago. The Gamecocks have a young roster with many question marks and another tough schedule. Is progress feasible?

"You know what? There's more pressure internally than there is externally, I can assure you of that," Muschamp says. "I don't think we're far off. I think we got some good, young talented players on our roster. We will be better moving forward."

OFFENSE Mike Bobo is back in the SEC as USC's new offensive coordinator, and he has already drawn raves for his assertive re-do of the playbook. Yet with a sophomore at quarterback who was derailed by health issues and loss of confidence last year (Ryan Hilinski) and a true freshman No. 1 running back (MarShawn Lloyd), what can Bobo really do?

The Gamecocks averaged 22.4 points and just under 372 yards per game last season. They scored only one touchdown in their final three games. They lost one of the most prolific wide receivers in school history in Bryan Edwards, as well as each member of a three-headed running back carousel.

The belief is that Lloyd can anchor the rushing game. He'll be backed up by Kevin Harris and Deshaun Fenwick (a combined 290 yards in 11 games last year). The hope is that Colorado State transfer tight end/H-back Adam Prentice and returning tight end Nick Muse can give USC a 1-2 punch to address their lack of known quantities at receiver.

Shi Smith (43 catches, 489 yards) leads the receiver corps, but the rest are unproven. Of the top four pass catchers last year, only Smith returns. The next guy after him is Josh Vann, who caught 19 passes in nine games.

DEFENSE Emphasis on knocking the ball out resulted in 28 takeaways in 2017. The Gamecocks had 16 in 2018 and 17 last year.

Those numbers have to increase, and the Gamecocks feel they have the personnel to do it. The secondary returns many veterans, albeit not ones that have shown a specific knack for forcing turnovers.

Junior corners Jaycee Horn and Israel Mukuamu could form one of the most dynamic defensive tandems in the league, while R.J. Roderick (safety) and Jammie Robinson (nickel) patrol the back end. The secondary will be the strength of the USC defense, although middle linebacker Ernest Jones (team-high 97 tackles last year) coordinates the entire group.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Coastal Carolina
Sept.	12	East Carolina
Sept.	19	Missouri
Sept.	26	at Kentucky
Oct.	3	at Florida
Oct.	10	Tennessee
Oct.	24	Texas A&M
Oct.	31	at Vanderbilt
Nov.	7	Georgia
Nov.	14	at LSU
Nov.	21	Wofford
Nov.	28	at Clemson

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 4-8, 3-5 SEC

Aug.	31	vs. North Carolina #	L	20-24
Sept.	7	Charleston Southern	W	72-10
Sept.	14	Alabama	L	23-47
Sept.	21	at Missouri	L	14-34
Sept.	28	Kentucky	W	24-7
Oct.	12	at Georgia (ot)	W	20-17
Oct.	19	Florida	L	27-38
Oct.	26	at Tennessee	L	21-41
Nov.	2	Vanderbilt	W	24-7
Nov.	9	Appalachian State	L	15-20
Nov.	16	at Texas A&M	L	6-30
Nov.	30	Clemson	L	3-38

#Charlotte, NC

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SEC	NATIONAL
Scoring	22.4 ppg	12	104
Rushing	149.7 ypg	10	82
Passing	222.3 ypg	7	74
Total	371.9 ypg	11	96
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	26.1 ppg	10	53
Rushing	158.0 ypg	12	66
Passing	235.3 ypg	12	80
Total	393.3 ypg	10	66
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
+3	+0.25	5	43

2020 RECRUITS

1. Jordan Burch, DT, Columbia, SC
2. MarShawn Lloyd, RB, Hyattsville, MD
3. Luke Doty, QB, Myrtle Beach, SC
4. Alex Huntley, DT, Columbia, SC
5. Mohamed Kaba, LB, Clinton, NC
6. Eric Shaw, ATH, Notasulga, AL
7. Tonka Hemingway, DT, Conway, SC
8. Rico Powers Jr., WR, Atlanta, GA
9. Mike Wyman, WR, Greensboro, NC
10. Jaheim Bell, ATH, Valdosta, GA
11. ZaQuandre White, RB, N. Fort Myers, FL*
12. Tyshawn Wannamaker, OG, Saint Matthews, SC
13. Ger-Cari Caldwell, WR, Rock Hill, SC
14. Trai Jones, C, Abbeville, SC
15. Joey Hunter, CB, Tyrone, GA
16. Jazston Turnetine, OT, Stockbridge, GA*
17. Vershon Lee, OG, Woodbridge, VA
18. Dominick Hill, CB, Orlando, FL
19. O'Donnell Fortune, S, Sumter, SC
20. Makius Scott, DT, Gainesville, GA
21. Rashad Amos, RB, Tyrone, GA
22. Gilber Edmond, DE, Fort Pierce, FL
23. Kai Kroeger, P, Lake Forest, IL
24. Mitch Jeter, K, Concord, NC

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Paul Abell

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	29.6	70
Defense	27.3	20
Margin	**+2.3**	**42**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	38.8%	102
Defense	39.8%	45
Margin	**-1.0%**	**80**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.2	108
Defense	5.5	56
Margin	**-0.3**	**89**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	3.9	114
Defense	4.2	34
Margin	**-0.3**	**86**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-3.0	87
Actual	3	43
Margin	**+6.0**	**19**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

2.04

South Carolina struggled to convert easy scoring opportunities in 2019. In fact, the Gamecocks averaged just 2.04 points per drive on possessions in which they took control inside their opponent's 40-yard line, which was the second-worst mark in the SEC and ranked 123rd in the country.

20.31

Will Muschamp and his staff made tempo a priority in 2019. South Carolina snapped the ball 20.31 seconds after its previous offensive play, on average, last season — fastest in the SEC and quicker than all but seven FBS teams.

9.95

Only five FBS teams averaged fewer than 10 yards per pass completion in 2019. South Carolina gained 9.95 yards per pass completion, which was the lowest output in the conference and No. 127 overall.

USC lost the NFL-bound Javon Kinlaw up front but can turn to Keir Thomas, a senior who missed nearly all of last year with an injury. Five-star recruit Zacch Pickens wasn't heard from much last year but could enjoy a tremendous upswing this year. Muschamp got one of the biggest recruits in his tenure with five-star local end Jordan Burch, and Aaron Sterling (six sacks among 10 tackles for a loss) also returns.

The Gamecocks' emphasis on takeaways often seemed to sap their ability to tackle last year. With two SEC veterans on the revamped staff (Tracy Rocker and Rod Wilson), that problem should be alleviated.

SPECIALISTS Gone is one of the best punters in school history (Joseph Charlton), but placekicker Parker White returns after connecting on 18-of-22 field goals and all 25 of his PAT attempts last year. Smith could take over for Edwards on return duties, but the unit continues to search for an explosive playmaker like Deebo Samuel was in 2017-18.

The Gamecocks are also replacing their long snapper and holder, which seems minor. But if one of them messes up an assignment, it's more fuel to add to the Muschamp pyre.

FINAL ANALYSIS Nobody has definitively said Muschamp needs to have a substantially better year to return for a sixth season, but he knows that without it, his second chance at being the head coach of an SEC team will be his last. The Gamecocks — rocked with injuries, offensive inconsistency, a lack of defensive fundamentals and most of all, losses — have wrecked all the promise of that nine-win season two years ago.

The Gamecocks played the toughest schedule in the country last year, and while the slate doesn't ease up in terms of opponents this year (Alabama was swapped out for a game at national champion LSU), the home-road breakdown does. USC starts with three home games before a tricky game at Kentucky and then a game at Florida. Home games with Tennessee and Texas A&M lead into a matchup at Vanderbilt.

If the Gamecocks are bowl eligible before November, Muschamp should be fine. If they're not, a murderous month of Georgia, at LSU and at Clemson will be the final nails in the coffin.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**13**	**Shi Smith (Sr.)**	87	Mike Wyman (Fr.)
WR	6	Josh Vann (Jr.)	18	OrTre Smith (Jr.)
WR	17	Xavier Legette (So.)	7	Dakereon Joyner (So.)
LT	55	Jakai Moore (Fr.)	52	Jaylen Nichols (So.)
LG	**50**	**Sadarius Hutcherson (Sr.)**	71	Eric Douglas (Jr.)
C	70	Hank Manos (So.)	74	Vincent Murphy (Fr.)
RG	**54**	**Jovaughn Gwyn (So.)**	**76**	**Jordan Rhodes (Jr.)**
RT	**79**	**Dylan Wonnum (Jr.)**	75	Jazston Turnetine (Jr.)
TE	9	Nick Muse (Sr.)	88	Will Register (Jr.)
QB	**3**	**Ryan Hilinski (So.)**	15	Collin Hill (Sr.)
RB	1	MarShawn Lloyd (Fr.)	20	Kevin Harris (So.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	**15**	**Aaron Sterling (Sr.)**		Jordan Burch (Fr.)
DT	26	Zacch Pickens (So.)	90	Rick Sandidge (Jr.)
DT	5	Keir Thomas (Sr.)	52	Kingsley Enagbare (Jr.)
DE	19	Brad Johnson (Jr.)	16	Rodricus Fitten (Fr.)
OLB	40	Jahmar Brown (So.)	32	Mohamed Kaba (Fr.)
MLB	**53**	**Ernest Jones (Jr.)**	42	Rosendo Louis Jr. (So.)
OLB	**44**	**Sherrod Greene (Sr.)**	30	Damani Staley (Sr.)
CB	**1**	**Jaycee Horn (Jr.)**	22	John Dixon (So.)
CB	**24**	**Israel Mukuamu (Jr.)**	9	Cam Smith (Fr.)
S	**10**	**R.J. Roderick (Jr.)**	4	Jaylin Dickerson (Jr.)
S	7	Jammie Robinson (So.)	21	Shilo Sanders (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	43	Parker White (Sr.)	**KR**	13	Shi Smith (Sr.)
P		Kai Kroeger (Fr.)	**PR**	17	Xavier Legette (So.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Ryan Hilinski	**406**	**236**	**2,357**	**11**	**5**
Dakereon Joyner	**28**	**16**	**168**	**0**	**0**
Jake Bentley	30	16	142	1	2

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Tavien Feaster	124	672	5.4	5
Rico Dowdle	106	498	4.7	4
Mon Denson	39	232	5.9	3
Kevin Harris	**21**	**179**	**8.5**	**4**
Deshaun Fenwick	**22**	**111**	**5.0**	**0**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Bryan Edwards	71	816	11.5	6
Shi Smith	**43**	**489**	**11.4**	**2**
Kyle Markway	31	349	11.3	2
Rico Dowdle	22	167	7.6	0
Josh Vann	**19**	**171**	**9.0**	**0**

KICKING: **Parker White, 18-22 FGs, 79 pts.**
TACKLES: **Ernest Jones, 97;** T.J. Brunson, 77
SACKS: Javon Kinlaw, 6.0, **Aaron Sterling, 6.0**
INTERCEPTIONS: **Israel Mukuamu, 4**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE GAMECOCKS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP SOUTH CAROLINA

"It's a pivotal year. This is the job everyone's talking about opening before the year starts, but you don't know (athletic director) Ray Tanner. We think Will Muschamp would really have to blow it to get fired this year. But yeah, there's some pressure here to get it going. ... They're still searching for an identity this many years in. ... Losing (Javon) Kinlaw really changes their defense. I say that because of how different they are with and without him. He was one of the best players in the country and could make your line play their worst game of the year. ... Schematically it's Will's defense, so it's in the Saban tree. They're going to give you lots of coverages, they're going to focus entirely on making the quarterback uncomfortable, get you in second-and-long and tee off. The problem is, they're not as talented as most of the other teams in the league off this tree, so you're seeing a slowed-down version of a team you've probably already prepared for. ... The talent level is tough to measure. They're certainly not a top-level team, and that was the expectation for Will. ... We think Mike Bobo wants to be a run-first, downhill offense and take a lot of the pressure off of (Ryan) Hilinski. He was really inconsistent and may not be the long-term answer, which is scary when you're going into a hot-seat year."

TENNESSEE Volunteers

National Forecast: **26** · SEC East Prediction: **3** · Projected Record: **8-4, 5-3 SEC**

Henry To'o To'o

Tennessee experienced the unthinkable on Aug. 31, 2019. The Vols lost their season opener 38–30 to Georgia State — the first Group of 5 loss for the program in more than a decade.

Four months later, Tennessee celebrated a Gator Bowl win against Indiana, and the Vols enter 2020 on a six-game winning streak. Jeremy Pruitt orchestrated an impressive turnaround, leading Tennessee to seven wins in its final eight games and a third-place finish in the SEC East. But the Vols have big hurdles to jump with with their annual matchups against Alabama, Florida and Georgia.

OFFENSE The Vols need consistency at quarterback. Jarrett Guarantano is a senior with 25 starts in 34 games. He was pushed last season by Brian Maurer and J.T. Shrout, and this season he has to hold off that duo and elite freshman Harrison Bailey. If Guarantano puts forth the caliber of play that he did in a brilliant second half at Kentucky and at Missouri — he had a career-best 415 yards passing vs. the Tigers to clinch a bowl berth — he is the unquestioned starter.

Whichever quarterback emerges will be playing behind an offensive line that should be the best group on Tennessee's offense. If Georgia transfer Cade Mays receives a waiver, the Vols would have four former five-star recruits starting up front. Left guard Trey Smith is an elite talent returning as a senior. Sophomore tackles Wanya Morris and Darnell Wright are the X-factors. Both need to shore up their pass protection. If they do, the unit should be one of the best in the SEC. But will that lead to better red-zone production? The Vols scored touchdowns on only 48.9 percent of red-zone tries last season.

The rushing attack should improve behind that line after averaging 4.1 yards per carry last season. Sophomore Eric Gray finished his freshman season impressively, with 246 yards and three touchdowns against Vanderbilt before keying UT's comeback win in the Gator Bowl. Ty Chandler led Tennessee in rushes (135) and yards (655) last season, his third at Tennessee.

The biggest offensive losses were at wide receiver, where centerpieces Marquez Callaway and Jauan Jennings graduated. Josh Palmer will be tasked with leading the group as the lone returner with double-digit receptions (34) in 2019. Help could come from transfer Deangelo Gibbs, who sat out last season, and grad transfer Velus Jones Jr. Ramel Keyton and Cedric Tillman are promising sophomores, but expect a push from freshmen Jalin Hyatt and Malachi Wideman. A lot will fall on the wide receivers without any proven threat at tight end, where Austin Pope returns with only seven receptions in 33 career games.

DEFENSE How did Tennessee flip its season around? The defense did not allow more than 22 points in any of the final six games after allowing 29 or more in five of the first seven. The Vols return a lot of the talent that contributed to that effort, but they face the task of replacing linebacker Daniel Bituli, edge rusher Darrell Taylor and safety Nigel Warrior.

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Jeremy Pruitt
Record at School: 13-12 (2 years)
Career Record: 13-12 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jim Chaney
Def. Coordinators: Derrick Ansley, Jimmy Brumbaugh
Location: Knoxville, TN
Stadium: Neyland Stadium (102,455)

KEY VOLUNTEERS

JARRETT GUARANTANO, QB Guarantano lost his starting spot last season but regained it and finished strong.

HENRY TO'O TO'O, LB The freshman All-American started 12 games with 72 tackles as a stalwart in the middle of the Vols defense.

TREY SMITH, OL Overcame serious health issues on his way to All-SEC honors as a junior — his third season starting on the O-line.

KEY LOSSES

JAUAN JENNINGS, WR Jennings had eight touchdown catches, but his physical, commanding presence was even more notable.

MARQUEZ CALLAWAY, WR Callaway was a dynamic player as a wide receiver and punt returner with big numbers in both categories.

DANIEL BITULI, LB Bituli anchored the Tennessee defense and led the team in tackles for the third straight season in 2019.

RISING STAR

JAYLEN MCCOLLOUGH turned heads with a two-interception spring game in 2019, but settled into the background among big-impact freshmen during the season. With Nigel Warrior gone, McCollough should be a mainstay at safety in coming years for Tennessee.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Charlotte
Sept.	12	at Oklahoma
Sept.	19	Furman
Sept.	26	Florida
Oct.	3	Missouri
Oct.	10	at South Carolina
Oct.	24	Alabama
Oct.	31	at Arkansas
Nov.	7	Kentucky
Nov.	14	at Georgia
Nov.	21	Troy
Nov.	28	at Vanderbilt

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5, 5-3 SEC

Aug.	31	Georgia State	L	30-38
Sept.	7	BYU (ot)	L	26-29
Sept.	14	Chattanooga	W	45-0
Sept.	21	at Florida	L	3-34
Oct.	5	Georgia	L	14-43
Oct.	12	Mississippi State	W	20-10
Oct.	19	at Alabama	L	13-35
Oct.	26	South Carolina	W	41-21
Nov.	2	UAB	W	30-7
Nov.	9	at Kentucky	W	17-13
Nov.	23	at Missouri	W	24-20
Nov.	30	Vanderbilt	W	28-10
Jan.	2	vs. Indiana #	W	23-22

#Gator Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SEC	NATIONAL
Scoring	24.2 ppg	11	98
Rushing	144.2 ypg	12	87
Passing	221.4 ypg	8	75
Total	365.5 ypg	12	100
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	21.7 ppg	7	29
Rushing	140.5 ypg	9	48
Passing	194.0 ypg	4	16
Total	334.5 ypg	6	23
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
-1	-0.08	10	70

2020 RECRUITS

1. Key Lawrence, S, Nashville, TN
2. Omari Thomas, DT, Memphis, TN
3. Harrison Bailey, QB, Marietta, GA
4. Malachi Wideman, WR, Venice, FL
5. Tyler Baron, DE, Knoxville, TN
6. Jalin Hyatt, WR, Irmo, SC
7. Jimmy Calloway, WR, Morrow, GA
8. Len'Neth Whitehead, LB, Athens, GA
9. Dominic Bailey, DT, Baltimore, MD
10. Morven Joseph, DE, Lakeland, FL
11. Cooper Mays, C, Knoxville, TN
12. Bryson Eason, LB, Memphis, TN
13. Martavius French, LB, Memphis, TN
14. Dee Beckwith, ATH, Florence, AL
15. Doneiko Slaughter, S, Roswell, GA
16. Jimmy Holiday, ATH, Madison, MS
17. Javontez Spraggins, C, East Saint Louis, IL
18. Tamarion McDonald, LB, Memphis, TN
19. Jabari Small, RB, Memphis, TN
20. RJ Perry, DT, Fairfield, AL
21. James Robinson, OG, Montgomery, AL
22. Tee Hodge, RB, Maryville, TN
23. Will Albright, LS, Greeneville, TN

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Tom DiPace

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	30.0	57
Defense	29.5	73
Margin	**+0.5**	**63**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	40.0%	92
Defense	41.5%	62
Margin	**-1.5%**	**83**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.8	67
Defense	5.0	25
Margin	**+0.8**	**29**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.0	107
Defense	3.9	20
Margin	**+0.1**	**65**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-4.3	98
Actual	-1	69
Margin	**+3.3**	**36**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

+0.56

Tennessee averaged 6.02 yards per play against SEC opponents in 2019 compared to 5.46 yards per snap in non-conference play. The 0.56-yard improvement was the best in the SEC.

0.081

Tennessee forced just four fumbles on defense throughout the entire 2019 season, which tied six teams (including Vanderbilt) at the bottom of the FBS leaderboard. On a per carry basis, the Vols were the worst in the conference and second worst in the country, forcing just 0.081 fumbles per rushing attempt.

55.6%

Tennessee averaged 14.39 yards per completion last season, which was second best in the SEC. However, the Vols completed just 55.6 percent of their passes, which ranked No. 102 nationally. Tennessee QBs ranked 32nd overall with an average of 8.0 yards per pass.

Henry To'o To'o will highlight and captain the Tennessee defense at inside linebacker after a Freshman All-America campaign with 72 tackles. He and Quavaris Crouch, who played outside linebacker as a freshman, form a scary and athletic pair of inside linebackers.

One of the biggest questions facing Tennessee is how it will replace the production and threat of Taylor. Taylor had 16.5 sacks in the past two seasons, while the top three returning outside linebackers combined for 8.5 in the same window. Kivon Bennett looks like a breakout candidate to replace Taylor. Emmit Gooden could help the push up front. He is returning after having ACL surgery during the 2019 preseason. He joins a defensive line group that returns its entire playing rotation — including defensive end starters Darel Middleton and Aubrey Solomon — and helped the Vols limit opponents to fewer than 100 yards rushing in four of their final six games.

Bryce Thompson is one of the most dangerous players on Tennessee's defense. Tennessee settled in when he returned from a suspension and got back to the level that earned him Freshman All-America honors in 2018. He had three interceptions for a defense that had more interceptions (15) than passing touchdowns allowed (14). The Vols have experience on the back end with nickel back Shawn Shamburger and cornerback Alontae Taylor, while the staff is excited about freshman Key Lawrence. Jaylen McCollough is in at safety replacing Warrior, while Trevon Flowers and Theo Jackson are experienced safety options.

SPECIALISTS Brent Cimaglia gives Tennessee one of the best kickers in the nation. He hit 23-of-27 field goals last season. The Vols need better punting, as Paxton Brooks was inconsistent. Jones averaged 24 yards per kickoff return with USC and will try to replicate that production.

FINAL ANALYSIS Expectations are higher for Tennessee after 2019 turned from a flop into a building block. UT's offense appears poised to improve in a second year under offensive coordinator Jim Chaney with a fortified offensive line. If the Vols can adequately replace defensive mainstays who sparked the second-half resurgence, they should take another step forward.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (9)

WR	**5**	**Josh Palmer (Sr.)**	6	Deangelo Gibbs (Jr.)
WR	80	Ramel Keyton (So.)		Jalin Hyatt (Fr.)
WR	7	Brandon Johnson (Sr.)	13	Velus Jones Jr. (Sr.)
LT	**64**	**Wanya Morris (So.)**	58	Jahmir Johnson (Sr.)
LG	**73**	**Trey Smith (Sr.)**	77	Chris Akporoghene (Fr.)
C	**55**	**Brandon Kennedy (Sr.)**	63	Cooper Mays (Fr.)
RG	68	Cade Mays (Jr.)	**75**	**Jerome Carvin (Jr.)**
RT	**72**	**Darnell Wright (So.)**	74	K'Rojhn Calbert (Jr.)
TE	**81**	**Austin Pope (Sr.)**	88	Princeton Fant (Jr.)
QB	**2**	**Jarrett Guarantano (Sr.)**	18	Brian Maurer (So.)
RB	**8**	**Ty Chandler (Sr.)**	3	Eric Gray (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**98**	**Aubrey Solomon (Sr.)**	94	Matthew Butler (Sr.)
DT	93	Emmit Gooden (Sr.)	**90**	**Greg Emerson (So.)**
DE	97	Darel Middleton (Sr.)	88	LaTrell Bumphus (Sr.)
OLB	13	Deandre Johnson (Sr.)		Tyler Baron (Fr.)
MLB	**11**	**Henry To'o To'o (So.)**		Bryson Eason (Fr.)
MLB	27	Quavaris Crouch (So.)	6	J.J. Peterson (So.)
OLB	95	Kivon Bennett (Jr.)	30	Roman Harrison (So.)
CB	**20**	**Bryce Thompson (Jr.)**	41	Kenneth George Jr. (Sr.)
CB	2	Alontae Taylor (Jr.)		Key Lawrence (Fr.)
S	**22**	**Jaylen McCollough (So.)**	17	Tyus Fields (Fr.)
S	25	Trevon Flowers (Jr.)	26	Theo Jackson (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	42	Brent Cimaglia (Sr.)	**KR**	13	Velus Jones Jr. (Sr.)
P	37	Paxton Brooks (Jr.)	**PR**	13	Velus Jones Jr. (Sr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jarrett Guarantano	257	152	2,158	16	8
Brian Maurer	75	35	541	2	5
J.T. Shrout	27	13	179	1	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Ty Chandler	135	655	4.9	3
Eric Gray	101	539	5.3	4
Tim Jordan	104	428	4.1	1
Brian Maurer	23	56	2.4	2
Jarrett Guarantano	49	54	1.1	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Jauan Jennings	59	969	16.4	8
Josh Palmer	34	457	13.4	1
Marquez Callaway	30	635	21.2	6
Dominick Wood-Anderson	21	268	12.8	1
Eric Gray	13	115	8.8	1

KICKING: **Brent Cimaglia, 23-27 FGs, 104 pts.**
TACKLES: Daniel Bituli, 88; **Henry To'o To'o, 72**
SACKS: Darrell Taylor, 8.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Nigel Warrior, 4

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE VOLUNTEERS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP TENNESSEE

"This is a make-or-break year for Jeremy Pruitt. Right now they're on the way to being good but not great. That job gets tougher and tougher ever year that the fan base gets whipped by Florida and Alabama and the big boys. Butch Jones won nine games in Year Three, and Jeremy lost to Georgia State last season. The good news is that they finished like a completely different team. Start to finish, last season was one of the strongest 'coach-'em-up' jobs you've seen in the league. Both the passing game and the overall defense, especially in the secondary, are night and day from Georgia State and BYU to the bowl. ... They should have a really strong offensive line, and they've got a fourth-year quarterback. He's not the most talented, he has shown some really bad decision-making, but experience at quarterback is invaluable in the SEC. The problem is they have to put the right weapons around him. ... Defensively it's up in the air. They have really great corners, but they're bad at safety. They've got talent in the front but they're not really special. It's iffy. The good news is that they look more like the old Tennessee. They're bigger and faster, they're developing guys they recruit and those two things haven't worked together for their defense in a long time."

VANDERBILT Commodores

National Forecast: **96** · SEC East Prediction: **7** · Projected Record: **3-9, 0-8 SEC**

Cam Johnson

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Derek Mason
Record at School: 27-47 (6 years)
Career Record: 27-47 (6 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Todd Fitch
Defensive Coordinator: Ted Roof
Location: Nashville, TN
Stadium: Vanderbilt Stadium (40,550)

KEY COMMODORES

CAM JOHNSON, WR Started the final nine games as a redshirt freshman last year, catching 30 balls for 316 yards.

TYLER STEEN, OL The Miami native and son of a former LSU offensive lineman is a leader up front after just one season as a starter.

DAYO ODEYINGBO, DL Odeyingbo is a veteran of the Dores' defense and stands to be the most disruptive lineman on the roster.

KEY LOSSES

KE'SHAWN VAUGHN, RB In 24 appearances in two seasons, Vaughn amassed 2,272 rushing yards, fifth all-time among VU running backs.

KALIJA LIPSCOMB, WR Finished his career in the top four in program history in catches (198, fourth) and TD catches (22, second).

JARED PINKNEY, TE Pinkney hauled in 114 catches over his Vanderbilt career, including 50 as a redshirt junior in 2018.

RISING STAR

Defensive lineman **MALIK LANGHAM** was a prized recruit in the class of 2018 and originally signed with Florida. Now, the former four-star prospect is eligible after sitting out 2019 following a transfer. Langham should add talent and depth to Vandy's defensive front.

Vanderbilt entered the 2019 season boasting a level of superstardom rarely seen on West End. Wide receiver Kalija Lipscomb, tight end Jared Pinkney and running back Ke'Shawn Vaughn — three of the SEC's best at their respective positions — all spurned shots at the NFL Draft to return to Nashville for their senior seasons. Yet the end results did not live up to the hype: Vanderbilt finished 1–7 in the SEC and 3–9 overall, its worst record since head coach Derek Mason's first season in 2014.

With Vandy's Big Three now off to the NFL, Mason and the Commodores turn the page to 2020 with a fresh roster as well as a fresh coaching staff. Mason added six new assistants ahead of spring practice, including veteran coordinators in Todd Fitch (offense) and Ted Roof (defense). The Dores must break in a new quarterback and hope that a veteran defense can author a turnaround. But Mason says his program is out to prove its 3–9 record was an anomaly.

"This group's got a chip on its shoulder," he says.

OFFENSE The three quarterbacks who played significant minutes for the Commodores in 2019 — Riley Neal, Mo Hasan and Deuce Wallace — are gone. Now all eyes are on the battle between Ken Seals, a touted signee from Texas, and transfer Jeremy Moussa that should last until fall camp. Fitch spent the offseason installing spread principles, which could take advantage of Seals' dual-threat skill set. The 6'3" Seals threw for 3,060 yards and 33 touchdowns in his final prep season for Weatherford (Texas) High, chipping in nearly 500 rushing yards and seven scores. No matter who the quarterback is, Mason says the Dores expect to go up-tempo more often.

The Dores might utilize a committee approach in the backfield. Redshirt senior Jamauri Wakefield is the most experienced returnee; he missed most of last season due to injury but ran for 353 yards on 78 carries in 2018. Sophomore Keyon Brooks is a viable backup.

With no Lipscomb or Pinkney, redshirt sophomore and former four-star recruit Cam Johnson has the talent to emerge as a No. 1 receiver after a strong finish to 2019. Johnson started the final nine games last fall and had 30 catches for 316 yards. Amir Abdur-Rahman (6'4"), Chris Pierce (6'4") and James Bostic (6'3") add size to the edge. It's a mixed bag at tight end, but redshirt sophomore Ben Bresnahan is the most experienced option.

Tyler Steen, Grant Miller and Cole Clemons are experienced faces on an offensive line that allowed 28 sacks in 2019.

DEFENSE Mason has made it a focus in recruiting to fill out his defensive line with SEC-caliber bodies. In that vein, the Commodores now feel their defensive front can stack up against the rest of the conference.

Senior Dayo Odeyingbo is arguably the leader of the unit after leading the Dores in both tackles for a loss (12) and quarterback hurries (seven) in 2019. The 6'6", 280-pound Texas native has started 21 games in the last two seasons at defensive end. Redshirt senior Drew

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Mercer
Sept.	12	at Missouri
Sept.	19	at Kansas State
Sept.	26	Colorado State
Oct.	3	at Georgia
Oct.	10	Ole Miss
Oct.	17	at Kentucky
Oct.	31	South Carolina
Nov.	7	Florida
Nov.	14	at Texas A&M
Nov.	21	Louisiana Tech
Nov.	28	Tennessee

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 3-9, 1-7 SEC

Aug.	31	Georgia	L	6-30
Sept.	7	at Purdue	L	24-42
Sept.	21	LSU	L	38-66
Sept.	28	Northern Illinois	W	24-18
Oct.	5	at Ole Miss	L	6-31
Oct.	12	UNLV	L	10-34
Oct.	19	Missouri	W	21-14
Nov.	2	at South Carolina	L	7-24
Nov.	9	at Florida	L	0-56
Nov.	16	Kentucky	L	14-38
Nov.	23	East Tenn. State	W	38-0
Nov.	30	at Tennessee	L	10-28

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SEC	NATIONAL
Scoring	16.5 ppg	14	125
Rushing	127.3 ypg	14	111
Passing	172.0 ypg	13	115
Total	299.3 ypg	14	123
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	31.8 ppg	13	95
Rushing	208.8 ypg	13	115
Passing	227.8 ypg	10	66
Total	436.6 ypg	13	101
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
-2	-0.17	12	83

2020 RECRUITS

1. De'Rickey Wright, ATH, Gadsden, AL
2. Donovan Kaufman, S, Metairie, LA
3. Kevo Wesley, C, Chicago, IL
4. Ken Seals, QB, Weatherford, TX
5. Mike Wright, QB, Atlanta, GA
6. Diego LaMonica, TE, Miami, FL
7. Will Sheppard, WR, Mandeville, LA
8. Logan Kyle, WR, Tomball, TX
9. Rocko Griffin, RB, Guyton, GA
10. Bradley Ashmore, OT, Neptune Beach, FL
11. Jason Brooks, OG, Houston, TX
12. Chase Lloyd, ATH, Atlanta, GA
13. Ben Cox, OT, Radford, VA
14. Griffin Lampton, DE, Fort Lauderdale, FL
15. Ethan Barr, LB, Flower Mound, TX
16. Jeremy Moussa, QB, Corona, CA*
17. Danny Clark, QB, Massillon, OH*
18. Raashaan Wilkins, DE, Chicago, IL*
19. Wesley Schelling, LS, Nashville, TN

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

AP Photo/Mark Humphrey

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	26.4	125
Defense	29.8	80
Margin	**-3.4**	**111**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	35.6%	123
Defense	47.7%	121
Margin	**-12.1%**	**127**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	4.8	121
Defense	6.6	117
Margin	**-1.8**	**127**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	3.9	115
Defense	4.6	80
Margin	**-0.7**	**109**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-4.4	99
Actual	-2	78
Margin	**+2.4**	**44**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

35.4

Vanderbilt scored 21 offensive touchdowns in 2019 in 744 offensive plays, meaning the Commodores ran an average of 35.4 plays between scores — worst in the SEC and fifth worst nationally.

-1.82

The Commodores averaged 1.17 points per drive (adjusted to filter out garbage time), which was the worst mark in the SEC and ranked 127th nationally last year. Vanderbilt allowed 2.99 points per drive, giving the Dores a net points per possession of -1.82, the worst result in the conference.

2.2%

On standard downs (first down, second-and-7 or less, third- or fourth-and-4 or less), the Vanderbilt defense posted a 2.2 percent sack rate last season, which was the worst mark in the SEC and ranked No. 124 in the country.

Birchmeier (12 starts at tackle in '19) and senior Cameron Tidd bring more experience to the group. Rutger Reitmaier, a Nashville native who began his career at Oregon, and juco signee Raashaan Wilkins (6'3", 300 pounds) will likely play key roles in relief. The Dores also add depth in Power 5 transfers Malik Langham (Florida) and Derek Green (Oklahoma). Mason says Roof's defense "really fits those guys inside."

Inside linebacker Dimitri Moore returns as the team's leading tackler (48 solo stops, 99 total) from a year ago and ranked among the SEC's top-10 in that category. Redshirt senior Andre Mintze is the vital piece on the outside; he finished with a team-high 4.5 sacks and was second with three quarterback hurries.

Vanderbilt's secondary was not a disruptive unit last season, ranking at the bottom of the SEC in interceptions and passes defended. A couple of seniors will try to change that at the safety spots in Tae Daley and Frank Coppet. Daley laid claim to half the team's picks (three). Incoming freshman safety Donovan Kaufman (New Orleans) is a four-star signee according to Rivals and will see the field. At corner, redshirt juniors Allan George (team-high five pass breakups) and Randall Haynie and redshirt sophomore BJ Anderson are the vets of the group.

SPECIALISTS The Commodores are likely to miss departed placekicker Ryley Guay, a two-year starter who converted 9-of-11 field goals as a senior, including a pair of 48-yarders. Next up is redshirt sophomore Javan Rice, a Miami native who boasts just two games and a single field-goal attempt in his Vanderbilt career. The Dores bring back Harrison Smith at punter after he averaged 43.0 yards as a redshirt freshman. Vanderbilt will need to find a suitable replacement for the departed Justice Shelton-Mosley, who returned punts and kicks last fall.

FINAL ANALYSIS Vanderbilt's offense failed to find a groove with Lipscomb, Pinkney and Vaughn on campus. Can the Commodores do so this season with a host of untested weapons and a new scheme? For Vandy to make a run at its third bowl game under Mason, a veteran defense might have to carry the load. Otherwise, it could be a long year on West End.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (5)

WR	87	Amir Abdur-Rahman (So.)	81	James Bostic (Jr.)
WR	**7**	**Cam Johnson (So.)**		Tyrell Alexander (Sr.)
WR	**19**	**Chris Pierce (Sr.)**	13	Jackson Winrow (Sr.)
LT	**54**	**Tyler Steen (So.)**	70	Bradley Ashmore (Fr.)
LG	72	Dan Dawkins (So.)	78	Bryce Bailey (Jr.)
C	**63**	**Grant Miller (Jr.)**	65	Michael Warden (Jr.)
RG	**74**	**Cole Clemens (Sr.)**	61	Jonah Buchanan (Jr.)
RT	73	Jonathan Stewart (Jr.)	69	Brayden Bapst (Fr.)
TE	86	Ben Bresnahan (So.)	10	Gavin Schoenwald (So.)
QB	8	Ken Seals (Fr.)	11	Jeremy Moussa (Jr.)
RB	32	Jamauri Wakefield (Sr.)	21	Keyon Brooks (So.)

DEFENSE (11)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**10**	**Dayo Odeyingbo (Sr.)**	94	Rutger Reitmaier (Jr.)
DT	**91**	**Drew Birchmeier (Sr.)**	92	Derek Green (Fr.)
DT	**90**	**Cameron Tidd (Sr.)**	35	Malik Langham (So.)
OLB	**48**	**Andre Mintze (Sr.)**	88	Michael Owusu (Jr.)
MLB	**21**	**Kenny Hebert (Sr.)**	**17**	**Feleti Afemui (Jr.)**
MLB	**7**	**Dimitri Moore (Jr.)**	12	Brayden DeVault-Smith (Jr.)
OLB	41	Elijah McAllister (So.)	97	Lorenza Surgers (So.)
CB	**16**	**BJ Anderson (So.)**	15	Elijah Hamilton (Sr.)
CB	**28**	**Allan George (Jr.)**	4	Randall Haynie (Jr.)
S	2	Frank Coppet (Sr.)	**33**	**Dashaun Jerkins (So.)**
S	**3**	**Tae Daley (Sr.)**		Donovan Kaufman (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	39	Javan Rice (So.)	**KR**	7	Cam Johnson (So.)
P	95	Harrison Smith (Jr.)	**PR**	7	Cam Johnson (So.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Riley Neal	258	149	1,585	9	5
Deuce Wallace	101	43	307	0	4
Mo Hasan	11	7	120	1	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Ke'Shawn Vaughn	198	1,028	5.2	9
Keyon Brooks	**56**	**252**	**4.5**	**1**
Kalija Lipscomb	4	52	13.0	0
Mitchell Pryor	**5**	**49**	**9.8**	**1**
Riley Neal	53	47	0.9	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Kalija Lipscomb	47	511	10.9	3
Cam Johnson	**30**	**316**	**10.5**	**3**
Ke'Shawn Vaughn	28	270	9.6	1
Chris Pierce	**14**	**245**	**17.5**	**1**
Jared Pinkney	20	233	11.7	2

KICKING: Ryley Guay, 9-11 FGs, 45 pts.
TACKLES: **Dimitri Moore, 99; Dashaun Jerkins, 58**
SACKS: **Andre Mintze, 4.5**
INTERCEPTIONS: **Tae Daley, 3**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE COMMODORES

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP VANDERBILT

"Everything is pointing back to the bad old days of Vandy football. Where is the identity? It was always supposed to be their defense. They're average at best on that side of the ball, and they've been completely lost on offense almost the entire time Derek Mason has been there. ... Todd Fitch, at least by his résumé, has a chance to open that offense up more. Mason's never had a play-caller with this kind of style. From what he did at Louisiana Tech, they're going to be three- and four-wide a lot more, they're going to run out of the shotgun, they're going to try to do all the fundamental spread things to get you in space and avoid losing one-on-one battles. So this is as far as Mason's ever been from the Stanford mentality. ... The problem is they're busted at every position. Expect them to work the portal for a quarterback. Ke'Shawn Vaughn was their most talented guy and he's gone, most of the offensive line is gone too. ... Ted Roof is a coach's coach and veteran guy. He was a smart hire because he can fit scheme to talent, or lack of it, and it also shows that Mase is maybe getting further and further away from the DC mentality. ... They're returning most of that defense. That has to be their calling card again, because the offense is new and not talented enough, most likely."

ALABAMA Crimson Tide

National Forecast: **2** · SEC West Prediction: **1** · Projected Record: **12-1, 7-1 SEC**

Najee Harris

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Nick Saban
Record at School: 157-23 (13 years)
Career Record: 248-65-1 (24 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Steve Sarkisian
Defensive Coordinator: Pete Golding
Location: Tuscaloosa, AL
Stadium: Bryant-Denny Stadium (101,821)

KEY CRIMSON TIDE

NAJEE HARRIS, RB When Harris decided to return for his senior season, he immediately jumped into the Heisman Trophy conversation.

DEVONTA SMITH, WR Smith is coming off a big year in his own right and is poised to step into the role of the Tide's No. 1 pass catcher.

DYLAN MOSES, LB If he comes back 100 percent from a knee injury that cost him all of last season, he will anchor the defense.

KEY LOSSES

TUA TAGOVAILOA, QB Hampered by injuries last year, but he was at his best in the biggest games.

JERRY JEUDY, WR The Tide's designated No. 1 receiver a year ago when he caught a team-high 77 passes for 1,163 yards and 10 TDs.

XAVIER MCKINNEY, DB One of Alabama's top defensive players a year ago when he led the team in tackles with 95 and added three interceptions and four forced fumbles.

RISING STAR

Sophomore **CHRISTIAN HARRIS** unexpectedly saw increased playing time at inside linebacker last season because of injuries, and he responded with 63 tackles, fourth most on the team. Harris could make a bigger splash this season.

Alabama is not used to sitting out the College Football Playoff that determines each season's national champion. In fact, last year was the first since the current four-team playoff format was introduced in 2014 that the Crimson Tide were not part of the CFP party.

Regular-season losses last season to eventual national champion LSU and archrival Auburn doomed Bama's chances for another national championship — which since 2009 has really been the only yardstick by which the program's seasons are measured. Alabama won five titles in 11 seasons under Nick Saban from 2009 through 2017. Not even a 35–16 win over Michigan in the Citrus Bowl could lessen the disappointment of missing out on the CFP last year.

Now, though, Alabama seems well-positioned to make a return this season. The Tide return one quarterback in Mac Jones who showed promise and gained valuable experience last year, with another promising QB, five-star recruit Bryce Young, waiting in the wings. Running back Najee Harris returns for his senior season with his sights set on possibly contending for the Heisman Trophy. There is no shortage of playmakers on both sides of the ball.

More than anything, Alabama is hungry and hurting from last year's failure to reach the CFP. That has provided the Tide with plenty of motivation to make it back to college football's Final Four this year.

OFFENSE Perhaps no single player on the Alabama roster benefited more from the cancellation of spring practice and offseason team workouts than Jones. Despite the fact that he gained valuable experience by filling in extensively for the injured and now-departed Tua Tagovailoa at quarterback last season, he was expected to be pushed for the starting job by Young, who has the potential to be more of a dual threat. Now Jones' experience from last season as a sophomore — when he appeared in 12 games, including four starts and six games in which he attempted 10 or more passes — looms more valuable than ever.

Whoever emerges as the QB, he will be handing the ball off — a lot — to Harris, who decided to return for his senior season and immediately became part of the preseason Heisman conversation. In addition to being a punishing runner, he is a capable receiver out of the backfield, having scored a combined 20 rushing and receiving touchdowns a year ago (13 on the ground and another seven through the air). At 6'2" and a solid 230 pounds, Harris reminds offensive coordinator Steve Sarkisian of many of the great running backs of Alabama's past, such as Derrick Henry. "He's just a big, tough, physical runner," Sarkisian says.

Then there is the usual stable of big-play receivers, led by returners DeVonta Smith (team-high 1,256 receiving yards and 14 touchdowns last year) and Jaylen Waddle (33 catches, 560 yards, six touchdowns). Four of five starters return on the offensive line, so that also should be one of the team's strengths.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	vs. USC #
Sept.	12	Georgia State
Sept.	19	Georgia
Sept.	26	Kent State
Oct.	3	at Ole Miss
Oct.	10	at Arkansas
Oct.	17	Mississippi State
Oct.	24	at Tennessee
Nov.	7	at LSU
Nov.	14	Tennessee-Martin
Nov.	21	Texas A&M
Nov.	28	Auburn

#Arlington, TX

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 11-2, 6-2 SEC

Aug.	31	vs. Duke #	W	42-3
Sept.	7	New Mexico State	W	62-10
Sept.	14	at South Carolina	W	47-23
Sept.	21	Southern Miss	W	49-7
Sept.	28	Ole Miss	W	59-31
Oct.	12	at Texas A&M	W	47-28
Oct.	19	Tennessee	W	35-13
Oct.	26	Arkansas	W	48-7
Nov.	9	LSU	L	41-46
Nov.	16	at Mississippi State	W	38-7
Nov.	23	Western Carolina	W	66-3
Nov.	30	at Auburn	L	45-48
Jan.	1	vs. Michigan %	W	35-16

#Atlanta %Citrus Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SEC	NATIONAL
Scoring	47.2 ppg	2	2
Rushing	168.5 ypg	6	56
Passing	342.2 ypg	2	3
Total	510.8 ypg	2	6
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	18.6 ppg	3	13
Rushing	137.2 ypg	7	37
Passing	187.2 ypg	3	11
Total	324.5 ypg	4	20
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
+18	+1.38	1	3

2020 RECRUITS

1. Bryce Young, QB, Santa Ana, CA
2. Will Anderson Jr., DE, Hampton, GA
3. Chris Braswell, DE, Baltimore, MD
4. Drew Sanders, ATH, Denton, TX
5. Demouy Kennedy, LB, Theodore, AL
6. Jase McClellan, RB, Aledo, TX
7. Timothy Smith, DT, Sebastian, FL
8. Brian Branch, S, Tyrone, GA
9. Quandarrius Robinson, LB, Birmingham, AL
10. Roydell Williams, RB, Hueytown, AL
11. Thaiu Jones-Bell, WR, Opa Locka, FL
12. Jackson Bratton, LB, Muscle Shoals, AL
13. Kristian Story, ATH, Lanett, AL
14. Jah-Marien Latham, DT, Reform, AL
15. Javon Baker, WR, Powder Springs, GA
16. Malachi Moore, S, Trussville, AL
17. Traeshon Holden, WR, Harbor City, CA
18. Jahquez Robinson, CB, Jacksonville, FL
19. Javion Cohen, OT, Phenix City, AL
20. Jamil Burroughs, DT, Powder Springs, GA
21. Ronald Williams Jr., CB, Ferriday, LA*
22. Damieon George, OT, Houston, TX
23. Kyle Edwards, RB, Destrehan, LA
24. Seth McLaughlin, C, Buford, GA
25. Caden Clark, TE, Akron, OH

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Paul Abell

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	33.0	4
Defense	27.9	32
Margin	**+5.1**	**13**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	53.7%	3
Defense	37.9%	29
Margin	**+15.8%**	**4**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	7.9	3
Defense	4.8	15
Margin	**+3.1**	**1**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	5.4	8
Defense	3.7	11
Margin	**+1.7**	**2**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	13.5	1
Actual	18	3
Margin	**+4.5**	**28**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

11.08

Alabama led the country with an average of 11.08 offensive plays between touchdowns — 0.53 plays fewer than No. 2 LSU. The Crimson Tide also led the country in the fewest pass attempts between touchdowns with an average of 8.29 passes per score.

3.85

Alabama made its fair share of big plays on defense as well. The Crimson Tide picked off 17 passes in 442 opportunities in 2019 — an interception rate of 3.85 percent, which led the SEC and ranked No. 5 in the country.

0.453

Alabama led the nation with an average of 0.729 points per play offensively. The Crimson Tide allowed 0.276 points per play on defense, which ranked No. 15 in the country. Alabama outscored its opponents by an average of 0.453 points per snap — No. 1 in FBS.

DEFENSE Injuries really hurt the Tide last season, especially on the defensive line and at linebacker. If 6'5", 292-pound LaBryan Ray, who missed the final 10 games after suffering an early-season foot injury vs. South Carolina last year, can return and stay healthy along with nose tackle DJ Dale (missed last three games with a lower-body injury), it should help tremendously. The linebacker corps is deep and talented, with the hoped-for return of Dylan Moses from the knee injury that kept him out all last season looming as one of the keys to the entire unit being better at stopping the run. Last year, the Tide surrendered 279 yards rushing vs. Ole Miss, 188 vs. Mississippi State, 181 in the loss to Auburn, and 166 (plus three rushing touchdowns) in the loss to LSU.

The secondary will be young and inexperienced, possibly making the back end vulnerable to some big plays early on. The opener vs. USC will be a test for this unit.

SPECIALISTS Waddle was the SEC Special Teams Player of the Year after leading the nation with a 24.4-yard average on punt returns, nearly four yards better than anyone else in college football. He's explosive in the return game — on kickoffs as well as punts — if he gets his hands on the football. Also on the positive side, Ale Kaho blocked three punts last season and returned one for a touchdown. The rest of the news is not so great, as the Tide's usually reliable kick-coverage teams had too many breakdowns last season and the field-goal and punting units struggled at times as well.

FINAL ANALYSIS Don't ever rule Alabama out of the national title contention talk. Jones has enough offensive talent around him that he should be a good fit at quarterback, as he is steady and makes few mistakes. Even if he stumbles or is injured, Young is an intriguing dual-threat prospect who over time is likely to be even better. The defense is a bigger question mark, but if the unit can avoid the kinds of injuries that hampered it last season, it should be much better at stopping the run and getting pressure on opposing quarterbacks. That in turn should help out the young secondary until it can round into shape. By playoff time, Alabama not only will likely be in the mix, but it also might even be the team to beat.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)				
WR	**6**	**DeVonta Smith (Sr.)**	3	Xavier Williams (So.)
WR	17	Jaylen Waddle (Jr.)	18	Slade Bolden (So.)
WR	8	John Metchie III (So.)	1	Tyrell Shavers (Jr.)
LT	**70**	**Alex Leatherwood (Sr.)**	60	Kendall Randolph (Jr.)
LG	55	Emil Ekiyor Jr. (So.)	72	Pierce Quick (Fr.)
C	**69**	**Landon Dickerson (Sr.)**	71	Darrian Dalcourt (So.)
RG	**65**	**Deonte Brown (Sr.)**	55	Emil Ekiyor Jr. (So.)
RT	**73**	**Evan Neal (So.)**	75	Tommy Brown (So.)
TE	**87**	**Miller Forristall (Sr.)**	19	Jahleel Billingsley (So.)
QB	10	Mac Jones (Jr.)	9	Bryce Young (Fr.)
RB	**22**	**Najee Harris (Sr.)**	26	Trey Sanders (Fr.)
DEFENSE (5)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	89	LaBryan Ray (Jr.)	92	Justin Eboigbe (So.)
DT	**94**	**DJ Dale (So.)**	90	Stephon Wynn Jr. (So.)
DE	58	Christian Barmore (So.)	47	Byron Young (So.)
OLB	4	Christopher Allen (Jr.)	1	Ben Davis (Sr.)
MLB	**32**	**Dylan Moses (Jr.)**	**35**	**Shane Lee (So.)**
MLB	**8**	**Christian Harris (So.)**	40	Joshua McMillon (Sr.)
OLB	30	King Mwikuta (So.)	31	Will Anderson Jr. (Fr.)
CB	**2**	**Patrick Surtain II (Jr.)**	22	Ronald Williams Jr. (Jr.)
CB	28	Josh Jobe (Jr.)	5	Jalyn Armour-Davis (So.)
SS	9	Jordan Battle (So.)	15	Eddie Smith (So.)
FS	3	Daniel Wright (Jr.)	29	DeMarcco Hellams (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	16	Will Reichard (So.)	**KR**	17	Jaylen Waddle (Jr.)
P	99	Ty Perine (So.)	**PR**	17	Jaylen Waddle (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Tua Tagovailoa	252	180	2,840	33	3
Mac Jones	**141**	**97**	**1,503**	**14**	**3**
Taulia Tagovailoa	**12**	**9**	**100**	**1**	**0**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Najee Harris	**209**	**1,224**	**5.9**	**13**
Brian Robinson Jr.	**96**	**441**	**4.6**	**5**
Keilan Robinson	**39**	**254**	**6.5**	**2**
Jerome Ford	24	114	4.8	3
Henry Ruggs III	2	75	37.5	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Jerry Jeudy	77	1,163	15.1	10
DeVonta Smith	**68**	**1,256**	**18.5**	**14**
Henry Ruggs III	40	746	18.7	7
Jaylen Waddle	**33**	**560**	**17.0**	**6**
Najee Harris	**27**	**304**	**11.3**	**7**

KICKING: **Joseph Bulovas, 8-11 FGs, 83 pts.**
TACKLES: Xavier McKinney, 95; **Shane Lee, 86**
SACKS: Anfernee Jennings, 8.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Jared Mayden, 4

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE CRIMSON TIDE

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP ALABAMA

"Their 'bad' year would earn most of the coaches in the country a raise and an extension, so let's not get too carried away about them taking a step back. They're as well-coached as anyone. They have answers for everything your offense wants to do. And if you take the Tua Tagovailoa injury away, it's a very different December and January. ... They'll be better on defense this year, especially at linebacker. If (linebacker) Dylan Moses is healthy again, they're going to be fantastic at that position. The defensive front will have to step up, because the secondary is all new. Nick Saban loves to get hands-on when this happens. ... This is going to be a Heisman campaign season for Najee Harris, go ahead and make your bet. They don't have a quarterback locked in. And their other weakness on offense is turning over receivers. So we think (offensive coordinator) Steve Sarkisian is gonna find ways to scheme Najee into everything they can. ... Aside from losing Tua to the NFL, the biggest story for them is the coaching staff. They're not replacing coordinators for the first time in years. That's massive, especially for the next quarterback in. ... It's overblown that they're on the decline. Maybe marginally? Maybe? But at what perspective? This is still the most successful dynasty in the history of the sport."

ARKANSAS Razorbacks

National Forecast: **74** · SEC West Prediction: **7** · Projected Record: **3-9, 0-8 SEC**

Rakeem Boyd

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Sam Pittman
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Kendal Briles
Defensive Coordinator: Barry Odom
Location: Fayetteville, AR
Stadium: Reynolds Razorback Stadium (80,800)

KEY RAZORBACKS

RAKEEM BOYD, TB A 1,000-yard rusher with good hands, above-average speed, strength and vision. Also an emotional leader.

MONTARIC BROWN, CB Made 10 starts last year and is primed for a breakout season.

TREYLON BURKS, WR/PR Burks' route running will be more refined as a sophomore, and his breakout potential as a punt returner is strong. He has exceptional hands.

KEY LOSSES

MCTELVIN AGIM, DT Didn't wreak as much havoc as hoped but was a quality three-year starter whose agility and strength will be missed.

KAMREN CURL, SS The team's top ballhawk, Curl elected to turn pro early. He developed into one of the SEC's top safeties in 2018-19.

C.J. O'GRADY, TE He was technically lost after getting the boot in October. When focused and committed, he was one of the best.

RISING STAR

Safety **JALEN CATALON** came to campus touted as being one of the top five prep prospects coach Chad Morris had ever scouted. He retained his redshirt in surprisingly light usage last season but had a monster winter and is likely to earn a starting job at middle safety.

The Arkansas Razorbacks struggled to out-muscle, out-run or out-scheme opponents each of the last two seasons. Their failure to do so led to back-to-back 2–10 seasons and Chad Morris' ouster with two games left in 2019.

Enter Sam Pittman, an ace recruiter and offensive line savant who inherits a program that has lost 19 consecutive conference games and is playing an elusive game of catch-up. Adding to Arkansas' degree of difficulty: The Razorbacks got in no spring practice time before the coronavirus suspension hit on March 12.

The Razorbacks have a school-record seven home games, which should help the win total, but their non-conference slate features a road date at Notre Dame, the first meeting between the programs.

OFFENSE Coordinator Kendal Briles inherits one of the nation's top tailbacks in Rakeem Boyd, an offensive line with a pile of experience and an up-and-coming receiving corps. However, the Razorbacks were one of the least productive offenses in the FBS.

Feleipe Franks, the starter at Florida for 25 games from 2017-19, signed on as a grad transfer, and the 6'6", 235-pounder would seemingly be the man to beat for the starting job. KJ Jefferson got Hogs fans excited with his first series, a rapid-fire touchdown drive against Mississippi State. Jefferson, coming off shoulder surgery, needs to improve his accuracy. Senior Jack Lindsey and sophomore John Stephen Jones each got one start in 2019, and the team signed highly rated dual threat Malik Hornsby.

Boyd's decision to return after piling up 1,133 rushing yards was a huge shot in the arm during the winter. He ranked fourth in the SEC and 27th nationally with 94.4 rushing yards per game.

Four offensive linemen with considerable starting experience — center Ty Clary, guard Ricky Stromberg and tackles Myron Cunningham and Dalton Wagner — are back, but their level of play must get markedly better. The unit, bolstered by the return from knee surgery of Noah Gatlin, an improved Shane Clenin and a three-man class of 300-pounders, stands to make a large leap with Pittman and position coach Brad Davis imparting their expertise.

Mike Woods is the leader of a receiving corps that could make a big jump. Trey Knox and Treylon Burks showed promise as true freshmen. Deon Stewart is back from injury, giving more depth to a rotation that will also feature DeVion Warren, Koilan Jackson, Tyson Morris and promising 6'3" signee Darin Turner.

The Razorbacks are light at tight end, where Hudson Henry is expected to make significant improvement and signees Blayne Toll and Collin Sutherland join a mix that includes veteran Blake Kern.

DEFENSE New coordinator Barry Odom has his work cut out to improve a unit that ranked 110th in total defense and 122nd against the rush and lost key cogs on all three levels.

The return of defensive end Dorian Gerald, lost in Week One with an artery issue in his neck, is a good start for a

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Nevada
Sept.	12	at Notre Dame
Sept.	19	at Mississippi State
Sept.	26	vs. Texas A&M #
Oct.	3	Charleston Southern
Oct.	10	Alabama
Oct.	17	LSU
Oct.	31	Tennessee
Nov.	7	at Auburn
Nov.	14	Ole Miss
Nov.	21	ULM
Nov.	28	vs. Missouri %

#Arlington, TX; %Kansas City, MO

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 2-10, 0-8 SEC

Aug.	31	Portland State	W	20-13
Sept.	7	at Ole Miss	L	17-31
Sept.	14	Colorado State	W	55-34
Sept.	21	San Jose State	L	24-31
Sept.	28	vs. Texas A&M #	L	27-31
Oct.	12	at Kentucky	L	20-24
Oct.	19	Auburn	L	10-51
Oct.	26	at Alabama	L	7-48
Nov.	2	Mississippi State	L	24-54
Nov.	9	Western Kentucky	L	19-45
Nov.	23	at LSU	L	20-56
Nov.	29	Missouri	L	14-24

#Arlington

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SEC	NATIONAL
Scoring	21.4 ppg	13	110
Rushing	147.2 ypg	11	85
Passing	192.9 ypg	11	103
Total	340.1 ypg	13	111
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	36.8 ppg	14	124
Rushing	221.5 ypg	14	122
Passing	229.2 ypg	11	69
Total	450.7 ypg	14	110
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
-5	-0.42	13	97

2020 RECRUITS

1. Myles Slusher, S, Broken Arrow, OK
2. Malik Hornsby, QB, Missouri City, TX
3. Darin Turner, WR, Memphis, TN
4. Marcus Henderson, OG, Memphis, TN
5. Blayne Toll, DE, Hazen, AR
6. Ebony Jackson, RB, Canton, GA
7. Jashaud Stewart, LB, Jonesboro, AR
8. Andy Boykin, DE, Lagrange, GA
9. Jalen St. John, OG, Saint Louis, MO
10. Catrell Wallace, LB, Bryant, AR
11. Nick Turner, S, New Orleans, LA
12. Kelin Burrle, LB, Harvey, LA
13. Ray Curry, OT, Memphis, TN
14. Julius Coates, DE, Rockford, IL*
15. Eric Thomas Jr., DE, Pensacola, FL
16. Jaqualin McGhee, DE, Fort Valley, GA
17. Jacorrei Turner, LB, Atlanta, GA
18. Dominique Johnson, RB, Crowley, TX
19. JT Towers, LB, Little Rock, AR
20. Collin Sutherland, TE, Flower Mound, TX
21. Khari Johnson, CB, Suffield, CT

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Jay Biggerstaff

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	29.3	77
Defense	30.1	88
Margin	**-0.8**	**82**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	35.7%	121
Defense	44.8%	94
Margin	**-9.1%**	**122**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.2	101
Defense	6.5	116
Margin	**-1.3**	**119**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	3.7	122
Defense	5.2	121
Margin	**-1.5**	**127**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-8.5	127
Actual	-5	96
Margin	**+3.5**	**35**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

46.9%

Opponents scored on 46.9 percent of their offensive possessions against the Arkansas defense in 2019, which ranked 128th in the country. No Power 5 conference defense allowed points on a higher percentage of drives.

3.18

Arkansas allowed its opponents to average 3.18 points per drive last season. The Razorbacks finished at the bottom of the SEC and ranked No. 124 in the country — worst among all Power 5 programs.

13.42%

Arkansas struggled to create pressure last season. The Razorbacks recorded just 111 havoc plays (tackles for a loss, forced fumbles and passes defensed) in 2019, and a havoc rate of 13.42 percent (havoc plays divided by total defensive snaps), both of which were the lowest in the SEC.

front that needs more beef and brings back one starter in end Mataio Soli, who played most of the season with a club on his broken hand. Jonathan Marshall, the program's strongest player last year, is expected to be a stalwart at tackle, where Isaiah Nichols, Taurean Carter, Enoch Jackson, Marcus Miller, Nick Fulwider and others should be in the rotation. Clemson transfer Xavier Kelly should get an opportunity for substantial playing time on the front, and junior college transfer Julius Coates should offer immediate help as well.

Veteran linebackers Bumper Pool (back) and Hayden Henry (shoulder) underwent offseason surgery and could be slowed when practice resumes. Seniors Grant Morgan and Deon Edwards, sophomore Andrew Parker and redshirt freshman Zach Zimos added needed weight. Transfer Levi Draper (Oklahoma) should join the rotation.

Losing rising senior Kamren Curl to the draft hurt a safety corps that has been light in quality numbers. Joe Foucha is a returning starter at strong safety. Myles Mason, Micahh Smith and Simeon Blair should show improvement with top signee Myles Slusher, an early enrollee, potentially bucking for playing time.

The cornerback crew has plenty of experience with returning starters Montaric Brown, Jarques McClellion and Greg Brooks Jr. bolstered by LaDarrius Bishop, Devin Bush and Malik Chavis.

SPECIALISTS The return game is in quality hands with veteran De'Vion Warren on kickoffs and sophomore Treylon Burks, who came on strong last year, on punts. The loss of Connor Limpert, the school record holder in field-goal accuracy, has set up a competition led by transfer AJ Reed (Duke), returnee Matthew Phillips and walk-ons Rhett Thurman and Vito Calvaruso. Punters Sam Loy and Reid Bauer are back, but the Hogs need more distance.

FINAL ANALYSIS The teams above the Razorbacks in the SEC West aren't going anywhere, so Pittman is embarking on a tough climb. An improvement in offensive line play and better third-down performances on both sides of the ball will be a good start for the new regime. Getting all the oars pulling in the same direction and stacking up a quality recruiting class will be top priorities for Pittman.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**8**	**Mike Woods (Jr.)**		Deon Stewart (Sr.)
WR	**16**	**Treylon Burks (So.)**	10	De'Vion Warren (Sr.)
WR	**7**	**Trey Knox (So.)**	3	Koilan Jackson (Jr.)
LT	**76**	**Myron Cunningham (Sr.)**		Jalen St. John (Fr.)
LG	57	Shane Clenin (Jr.)		Marcus Henderson (Fr.)
C	**66**	**Ty Clary (Sr.)**	55	Beaux Limmer (Fr.)
RG	**51**	**Ricky Stromberg (So.)**	70	Luke Jones (So.)
RT	**78**	**Dalton Wagner (Jr.)**	73	Noah Gatlin (So.)
TE	82	Hudson Henry (Fr.)	87	Blake Kern (Sr.)
QB	13	Feleipe Franks (Sr.)	1	KJ Jefferson (Fr.)
RB	**5**	**Rakeem Boyd (Sr.)**	22	Trelon Smith (So.)

DEFENSE (6)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	5	Dorian Gerald (Sr.)	50	Eric Gregory (Fr.)
DT	42	Jonathan Marshall (Sr.)	91	Taurean Carter (Fr.)
DT		Xavier Kelly (Sr.)	93	Isaiah Nichols (So.)
DE	**11**	**Mataio Soli (So.)**	56	Zach Williams (So.)
LB	**10**	**Bumper Pool (Jr.)**	27	Hayden Henry (Sr.)
LB	31	Grant Morgan (Sr.)	22	Deon Edwards (Sr.)
CB	**4**	**Jarques McClellion (Jr.)**	24	LaDarrius Bishop (So.)
CB	**21**	**Montaric Brown (Jr.)**	23	Devin Bush (Fr.)
NB	**9**	**Greg Brooks Jr. (So.)**	26	Micahh Smith (Sr.)
SS	1	Jalen Catalon (Fr.)	18	Myles Mason (Jr.)
FS	**7**	**Joe Foucha (Jr.)**	2	Myles Slusher (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		AJ Reed (Sr.)	**KR**	10	De'Vion Warren (Sr.)
P	42	Sam Loy (Jr.)	**PR**	16	Treylon Burks (So.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Nick Starkel	179	96	1,152	7	10
Ben Hicks	137	65	738	2	2
KJ Jefferson	**31**	**14**	**197**	**0**	**1**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Rakeem Boyd	**184**	**1,133**	**6.2**	**8**
Devwah Whaley	69	278	4.0	4
Jack Lindsey	**7**	**80**	**11.4**	**0**
T.J. Hammonds	**8**	**65**	**8.1**	**0**
KJ Jefferson	**30**	**58**	**1.9**	**2**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Mike Woods	**33**	**423**	**12.8**	**4**
Cheyenne O'Grady	33	372	11.3	3
Treylon Burks	**29**	**475**	**16.4**	**0**
Trey Knox	**28**	**385**	**13.8**	**3**
Rakeem Boyd	**19**	**160**	**8.4**	**0**

KICKING: Connor Limpert, 14-19 FGs, 71 pts.
TACKLES: De'Jon Harris, 101; **Bumper Pool, 94**
SACKS: McTelvin Agim, 5.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Kamren Curl, 2

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE RAZORBACKS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP ARKANSAS

"It's a total mess from top to bottom. What's the identity of this program? Are they a hard-nosed smashmouth team? That didn't work. Are they going to beat you with spread and tempo and use Texas kids? That didn't work. ... Last year was a total mess. They were vanilla on offense and defense the entire time Chad Morris was there. They were the worst-looking team on film in the conference, maybe in Power 5. Confused, out of place, low effort, no communication. ... That they landed on Sam (Pittman) is really telling. He's a well-respected career assistant who is great at his job, but it's hard to find what he's got, or what he can say or do with that program that could suddenly turn things around. They've got no personnel. The roster right now looks like NCAA sanctions hit them. ... (Rakeem) Boyd coming back was huge, he and Feleipe Franks are a decent place to start. The offensive line isn't horrible. ... Defensively they're terrible, but Barry Odom is one of the best coordinators in the country. He can't work miracles, but they'll blend schemes and figure out what fits who they have. They should go out and work the portal. ... The bigger issue with this program is identity. Sam has to establish who they are in every single facet of the game, recruiting, offense, defense, all of it."

AUBURN Tigers

National Forecast: **13** ·SEC West Prediction: **4**· Projected Record: **9-3, 5-3 SEC**

Bo Nix

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Gus Malzahn
Record at School: 62-31 (7 years)
Career Record: 71-34 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinators: Kodi Burns, Chad Morris
Defensive Coordinators: Kevin Steele, Travis Williams
Location: Auburn, AL
Stadium: Jordan-Hare Stadium (87,451)

KEY TIGERS

BO NIX, QB Set the record for most passing yards for an Auburn freshman and should easily be able to exceed those numbers in Year Two.

SETH WILLIAMS, WR Emerged as Auburn's best WR in 2019 with a stellar 59 catches for 830 yards and eight TDs despite missing a game.

ANTHONY SCHWARTZ, WR The track star should be better utilized in Chad Morris' offense to improve on only one receiving TD in 2019.

KEY LOSSES

DERRICK BROWN, DL The best Auburn DL in recent memory; he won't be easily replaced.

MARLON DAVIDSON, DL Didn't get as much attention as Brown but had a team-best 12.5 tackles for a loss and 7.5 sacks.

JATARVIOUS WHITLOW, RB Missed time with injuries but still finished with a team-best 763 rushing yards and 10 TDs.

RISING STAR

D.J. WILLIAMS entered the 2019 season as part of a crowded backfield but should be the lead back this year after JaTarvious Whitlow left the program. He's a power runner who can do serious damage once he gets going downfield.

The 2019 Auburn Tigers will largely be remembered more for what could have been than for what they actually accomplished.

Gus Malzahn's Tigers secured important wins over in-state rival Alabama and Pac-12 champion Oregon, but Auburn had the talent to finish better than its 9–4 record. Headlined by Derrick Brown and Marlon Davidson, Auburn possessed one of the nation's top defenses, a unit that regularly kept it in games when the offense struggled.

A series of close-call losses, including a three-point loss on the road to eventual national champion LSU, highlighted just how close Auburn was to being a College Football Playoff team. No team played LSU better than Auburn in 2019, but true freshman quarterback Bo Nix wasn't able to deliver late in the fourth quarter to get the win.

Auburn will need Nix to step up in 2020 with its starting offensive line, plus Brown and Davidson, all gone. As is seemingly always the case on the Plains, Malzahn enters 2020 with pressure to deliver big results again.

OFFENSE It's the Bo Nix Show in Auburn. Malzahn opted for the true freshman last season over more experienced options, a decision that both paid dividends and led to late-season criticism. Nix delivered the game-winning touchdown over Oregon but then struggled in losses to Florida and LSU, completing only 41.9 percent of his passes and throwing four interceptions in those two games. The talent is unquestionably there, but at times the young quarterback seemed overwhelmed. Still, the hype for what Nix can accomplish this season has only grown, and Malzahn has done nothing to throw water on it.

"He'll win a championship before he gets out of here," the Auburn head coach says.

If that's going to happen, he'll need new offensive line coach Jack Bicknell Jr. to build a cohesive unit as soon as possible. This position is easily the biggest question mark for the Tigers after they lost all five primary starters from last year's roster. In 2020, the only known quantity is center Nick Brahms, who looked solid in five starts last season. Redshirt juniors Austin Troxell and Brodarious Hamm are two other good bets to be starters given their talent, but after that it's wide open.

D.J. Williams should be the lead back after JaTarvious Whitlow surprisingly decided to leave the program. Williams is a powerful runner who can handle the bulk of the carries, though Auburn could opt for a committee approach with Shaun Shivers, freshman Tank Bigsby and Mark-Antony Richards all expected to get work.

Nix might have the best wide receiver combo in the SEC in Seth Williams and Anthony Schwartz. Williams took a big step in 2019, emerging as Nix's favorite target and finishing with a team-best 59 catches for 830 yards and eight touchdowns. Schwartz, quite possibly the fastest man in the SEC, wasn't quite as productive as many had hoped, but should benefit from new offensive coordinator Chad Morris' schemes.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Alcorn State
Sept.	12	vs. North Carolina #
Sept.	19	at Ole Miss
Sept.	26	Southern Miss
Oct.	3	Kentucky
Oct.	10	at Georgia
Oct.	17	Texas A&M
Oct.	31	at Mississippi State
Nov.	7	Arkansas
Nov.	14	Massachusetts
Nov.	21	LSU
Nov.	28	at Alabama

#Atlanta, GA

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 9-4, 5-3 SEC

Aug.	31	vs. Oregon #	W	27-21
Sept.	7	Tulane	W	24-6
Sept.	14	Kent State	W	55-16
Sept.	21	at Texas A&M	W	28-20
Sept.	28	Mississippi State	W	56-23
Oct.	5	at Florida	L	13-24
Oct.	19	at Arkansas	W	51-10
Oct.	26	at LSU	L	20-23
Nov.	2	Ole Miss	W	20-14
Nov.	16	Georgia	L	14-21
Nov.	23	Samford	W	52-0
Nov.	30	Alabama	W	48-45
Jan.	1	vs. Minnesota %	L	24-31

#Arlington %Outback Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SEC	NATIONAL
Scoring	33.2 ppg	3	28
Rushing	199.1 ypg	4	33
Passing	207.5 ypg	9	87
Total	406.5 ypg	6	64
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	19.5 ppg	6	17
Rushing	123.2 ypg	4	25
Passing	213.8 ypg	8	47
Total	337.0 ypg	7	28
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
+6	+0.46	3	27

2020 RECRUITS

1. Tank Bigsby, RB, Hogansville, GA
2. Zykeivous Walker, DE, Ellaville, GA
3. Wesley Steiner, LB, Warner Robins, GA
4. Jay Hardy, DT, Chattanooga, TN
5. Kobe Hudson, WR, Lagrange, GA
6. Ze'Vian Capers, WR, Alpharetta, GA
7. JJ Evans, WR, Montevallo, AL
8. Ladarius Tennison, ATH, Rockledge, FL
9. Eric Reed Jr., S, Shreveport, LA
10. Chris Thompson Jr., S, Duncanville, TX
11. JJ Pegues, ATH, Oxford, MS
12. Desmond Tisdol, LB, Rochelle, GA
13. Dre Butler, DE, Covington, GA*
14. Cam Riley, LB, Evergreen, AL
15. Brandon Frazier, TE, McKinney, TX
16. Marco Domio, CB, Brenham, TX
17. Romello Height, LB, Dublin, GA
18. Kilian Zierer, OT, Hohenkirchen, Germany*
19. Avery Jernigan, OG, Blackshear, GA
20. Brenden Coffey, OT, Paradise, CA*
21. Tate Johnson, OG, Hogansville, GA
22. Daniel Foster-Allen, DE, Mobile, AL
23. Elijah Canion, WR, Hollywood, FL
24. Marquis Burks, DT, Chicago, IL*
25. Jeremiah Wright, OG, Selma, AL
26. Chayil Garnett, QB, Lakeland, FL

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Paul Abell

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	32.0	19
Defense	28.9	53
Margin	**+3.1**	**28**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	41.4%	74
Defense	36.1%	14
Margin	**+5.3%**	**33**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.6	83
Defense	4.8	17
Margin	**+0.8**	**30**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.8	42
Defense	3.7	8
Margin	**+1.1**	**14**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	5.2	24
Actual	6	27
Margin	**+0.8**	**55**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

42.3%

Auburn led the SEC and ranked No. 3 nationally with a 42.3 percent three-and-out rate last season. The Tigers forced a punt without allowing a first down on 74 of 175 drives.

76.0%

The Tigers kept opponents off the scoreboard on 76 percent of drives last season, a stop rate that ranked No. 11 in the country and was third best in the SEC.

1.59%

Bo Nix threw just six interceptions in 377 pass attempts as a true freshman last year — an interception rate of 1.59 percent. Among FBS quarterbacks with 300 or more pass attempts, Nix ranked No. 19 overall and third among freshmen.

DEFENSE There's no one on the roster who can fully replace what Derrick Brown and Marlon Davidson, multi-year starters and future NFL contributors, brought to the table for the Tigers. The good news for defensive line coach Rodney Garner is that Big Kat Bryant (team-best nine QB hurries) and Tyrone Truesdell (three sacks in 2019) look ready to take on bigger roles this season. Derick Hall and Coynis Miller Jr. both showed flashes last season and could benefit from more opportunities.

The linebacker corps will be the strength of the defense. K.J. Britt, who had 69 tackles and 10.0 tackles for a loss in 2019, is the heart of the unit and was rightfully named first-team All-SEC last year. He'll patrol the middle of the field for the Tigers, while sophomore Owen Pappoe and junior Zakoby McClain should both have big impacts on either side of him. Pappoe, a former five-star recruit, is Auburn's most talented linebacker and should take a big jump this season.

The secondary could take a step back after losing starting cornerbacks Noah Igbinoghene and Javaris Davis and safeties Jeremiah Dinson and Daniel Thomas. Auburn isn't bereft of experience, though, with cornerback Roger McCreary and safety Smoke Monday more than ready to step into starting roles after strong play last season.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Anders Carlson hasn't lived up to the lofty expectations that came with following in his brother Daniel's footsteps. He struggled in 2019 with field goals 40 yards or longer (8-of-15), although he went 4-for-4 in that range against Alabama when it mattered most. Auburn will need him to improve this season and might have to utilize him as a punter given Arryn Siposs' decision to leave school early. Walk-on redshirt freshman Patrick Markwalter is the only punter on the roster.

FINAL ANALYSIS In what could be a wide-open SEC, Auburn has the quarterback and the offensive weapons to compete with anyone. Can Morris do enough to help Nix become the best version of himself? That plus line play on both sides of the ball will be the big questions for this team. How Auburn answers them could be the difference between another seven- or eight-win type of season and being a real national contender.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (3)

WR	**18**	**Seth Williams (Jr.)**		Kobe Hudson (Fr.)
WR	5	Anthony Schwartz (Jr.)	11	Shedrick Jackson (Jr.)
WR	**12**	**Eli Stove (Sr.)**	19	Matthew Hill (So.)
LT	68	Austin Troxell (Jr.)	77	Kilian Zierer (Jr.)
LG	56	Tashawn Manning (Jr.)		Brandon Council (Jr.)
C	52	Nick Brahms (Jr.)	50	Jalil Irvin (So.)
RG	50	Jalil Irvin (So.)	62	Kameron Stutts (So.)
RT	59	Brodarious Hamm (Jr.)	65	Alec Jackson (Jr.)
TE	47	John Samuel Shenker (Jr.)	85	Tyler Fromm (Fr.)
QB	**10**	**Bo Nix (So.)**	24	Cord Sandberg (So.)
RB	3	D.J. Williams (So.)	8	Shaun Shivers (Jr.)

DEFENSE (4)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**1**	**Big Kat Bryant (Sr.)**		Zykeivous Walker (Fr.)
DT	94	Tyrone Truesdell (Sr.)	96	Jaren Handy (So.)
DT	8	Coynis Miller Jr. (Jr.)	44	Daquan Newkirk (Sr.)
DE	29	Derick Hall (So.)	55	T.D. Moultry (Sr.)
OLB	9	Zakoby McClain (Jr.)	31	Chandler Wooten (Sr.)
MLB	**33**	**K.J. Britt (Sr.)**	31	Chandler Wooten (Sr.)
OLB	**10**	**Owen Pappoe (So.)**	9	Zakoby McClain (Jr.)
CB	23	Roger McCreary (Jr.)	12	Devan Barrett (Sr.)
CB	**6**	**Christian Tutt (Jr.)**	15	Jordyn Peters (Sr.)
S	21	Smoke Monday (Jr.)	11	Zion Puckett (Fr.)
S	20	Jamien Sherwood (Jr.)	15	Jordyn Peters (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	26	Anders Carlson (Jr.)	**KR**	8	Shaun Shivers (Jr.)
P	39	Patrick Markwalter (Fr.)	**PR**	6	Christian Tutt (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Bo Nix	**377**	**217**	**2,542**	**16**	**6**
Cord Sandberg	**7**	**5**	**84**	**2**	**0**
Joey Gatewood	7	5	54	2	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
JaTarvious Whitlow	156	763	4.9	10
D.J. Williams	**84**	**400**	**4.8**	**2**
Kam Martin	61	333	5.5	2
Bo Nix	**97**	**313**	**3.2**	**7**
Shaun Shivers	**55**	**286**	**5.2**	**3**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Seth Williams	**59**	**830**	**14.1**	**8**
Anthony Schwartz	**41**	**440**	**10.7**	**1**
Eli Stove	**37**	**321**	**8.7**	**3**
Will Hastings	19	222	11.7	1
Jay Jay Wilson	14	133	9.5	1

KICKING: **Anders Carlson, 18-25 FGs, 102 pts.**
TACKLES: Jeremiah Dinson, 88; Daniel Thomas, 74
SACKS: Marlon Davidson, 7.5
INTERCEPTIONS: 3 tied with 2

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE TIGERS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP AUBURN

"The first question everyone has is who is going to run that offense. Chad Morris was a disaster at Arkansas, but he's one of the architects of that Clemson offense. He's a great play-caller with his own style. So is this a total program commitment, or will Gus Malzahn yank it back the first time they run into trouble? ... They're committed to their quarterback and saw it through last year. You have to credit Gus, they pick their guys and ride it out. They're solid up front but they aren't SEC champs. That's the position that holds them back if the offense struggles, because they have enough toys at receiver to move around and let Bo Nix rip it. ... The defense is consistently one of the best in all of college football. Kevin Steele doesn't get enough credit for the job he's done. This was the most intimidating front seven in the SEC last year. They're losing some real NFL talent in the front, but they're deep enough to where you don't expect them to fall off. ... This is still one of the most interesting programs in college football. It feels like every single year talk radio and the media and fans want to fire Gus, and every year they find ways to reinvent and improve. I don't know how you recruit and coach a better defense, honestly. The guy to watch is Nix. Gus made him the heir apparent, and now he has to take that next step."

LSU Tigers

National Forecast: **8** · SEC West Prediction: **2** · Projected Record: **10-2, 6-2 SEC**

Ja'Marr Chase

LSU's 2019 team arguably produced the greatest college football season ever. A 15–0 record and a national championship. A record-shattering offense. And a Heisman Trophy for quarterback Joe Burrow.

But now that Burrow and a Mardi Gras float full of LSU stars have paraded off to the NFL, the question begs to be asked: What can the Tigers do for an encore?

For LSU coach Ed Orgeron, the first step is to step away from all the self-congratulations and get back to work.

"I do believe it would be a fault to keep talking about last year," Orgeron says. "We've got to turn the page. This is a new team.

"The culture we've built is fantastic. But we've got to keep that standard up."

OFFENSE Burrow threw for 5,671 yards and 60 touchdowns. Even if his successor at quarterback, fourth-year junior Myles Brennan, threw for 4,000 yards and 40 touchdowns, would it be enough for him not to be considered second-rate?

Complicating matters is the loss of passing game coordinator Joe Brady, who installed much of LSU's scheme last year and is now offensive coordinator with the Carolina Panthers. NFL veteran Scott Linehan now takes the seat next to offensive coordinator Steve Ensminger.

All these changes have Orgeron unruffled and ultra-confident in Brennan (24-of-40 passing in 2019 for 353 yards). "I expect Myles to explode," he says. "I expect him to do all the things that he needs to do to be a great quarterback."

LSU will be looking for a running back to erupt like Clyde Edwards-Helaire did last season. Sophomore Chris Curry made himself a prime candidate after starting the Peach Bowl and rushing for 90 yards against Oklahoma. Sophomore Tyrion Davis-Price is the Tigers' top-returning rusher, a bruising back who ran for 295 yards and six touchdowns on 64 carries.

Biletnikoff Award-winning wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase (84 catches, 1,780 yards, 20 TDs) is back for his junior season, though one wonders how good he can be without Burrow. Junior Terrace Marshall Jr. (46 catches, 671 yards, 13 TDs in 12 games) is also back, though LSU must find a third starting receiver. Freshman Arik Gilbert, the Gatorade National Player of the Year, is a virtual lock at tight end.

LSU's offensive hopes hinge on an offensive line that returns just one starter: senior right tackle Austin Deculus. Projected starting left tackle Dare Rosenthal left school in the spring for "personal reasons." The Tigers will anxiously await his promised return this fall.

DEFENSE Like LSU's offense last year, the Tigers' defense is set for a major transition in 2020.

Former Youngstown State head coach Bo Pelini, LSU's defensive coordinator from 2005-07, is back, replacing Dave Aranda after the latter's departure to become head coach at Baylor. Pelini is switching from Aranda's multiple 3-4 back to a 4-3.

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Ed Orgeron
Record at School: 40-9 (3+ years)
Career Record: 56-36 (6+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Steve Ensminger
Defensive Coordinator: Bo Pelini
Location: Baton Rouge, LA
Stadium: Tiger Stadium (102,321)

KEY TIGERS

DEREK STINGLEY JR., CB Former Oklahoma wide receiver CeeDee Lamb says Stingley is the best CB he ever faced.

JA'MARR CHASE, WR Chase scored 20 TDs and averaged over 21 yards per catch. Can he be that good without Joe Burrow?

JACOBY STEVENS, S Getting Stevens' smart, steady presence back for his senior campaign was a "recruiting" win for Coach O.

KEY LOSSES

JOE BURROW, QB Myles Brennan could throw for 4,000 yards and 40 TDs and LSU fans would go "Meh." That's how good Burrow was.

JUSTIN JEFFERSON, WR Jefferson's LSU-best 111 catches will take two players to replace.

CLYDE EDWARDS-HELAIRE, RB Who thought Burrow would win the Heisman? As many as thought Edwards-Helaire would rush for nearly 100 ypg.

RISING STAR

LSU lost a superb edge rusher in K'Lavon Chaisson. It may have its next great one in true freshman **BJ OJULARI.** He goes into the fall as a backup at defensive end, but that may change. "He has all the makings of being a great end," Ed Orgeron says. "He's perfect for the 4-3."

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	UTSA
Sept.	12	Texas
Sept.	19	at Rice #
Sept.	26	Ole Miss
Oct.	3	Nicholls
Oct.	10	at Florida
Oct.	17	at Arkansas
Oct.	24	Mississippi State
Nov.	7	Alabama
Nov.	14	South Carolina
Nov.	21	at Auburn
Nov.	28	at Texas A&M

#NRG Stadium

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 15-0, 8-0 (SEC)

Aug.	31	Georgia Southern	W	55-3
Sept.	7	at Texas	W	45-38
Sept.	14	Northwestern State	W	65-14
Sept.	21	at Vanderbilt	W	66-38
Oct.	5	Utah State	W	42-6
Oct.	13	Florida	W	42-28
Oct.	19	at Mississippi State	W	36-13
Oct.	26	Auburn	W	23-20
Nov.	9	at Alabama	W	46-41
Nov.	16	at Ole Miss	W	58-37
Nov.	23	Arkansas	W	56-20
Nov.	30	Texas A&M	W	50-7
Dec.	7	vs. Georgia #	W	37-10
Dec.	28	vs. Oklahoma %	W	63-28
Jan.	13	vs. Clemson &	W	42-25

#Atlanta %Peach Bowl: CFB Playoff Semifinal &New Orleans: CFB Playoff Championship

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SEC	NATIONAL
Scoring	48.4 ppg	1	1
Rushing	166.9 ypg	7	60
Passing	401.6 ypg	1	2
Total	568.5 ypg	1	1
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	21.9 ppg	8	32
Rushing	120.8 ypg	3	21
Passing	222.7 ypg	9	59
Total	343.5 ypg	9	31
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
+10	+0.67	2	15

2020 RECRUITS

1. Arik Gilbert, TE, Marietta, GA
2. Elias Ricks, CB, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
3. Kayshon Boutte, WR, New Iberia, LA
4. Jaquelin Roy, DT, Baton Rouge, LA
5. Phillip Webb, LB, Buford, GA
6. Jordan Toles, S, Baltimore, MD
7. BJ Ojulari, DE, Marietta, GA
8. Jacobian Guillory, DT, Alexandria, LA
9. Antoine Sampah, LB, Woodbridge, VA
10. Marcus Dumervil, OT, Fort Lauderdale, FL
11. Tre Bradford, RB, Lancaster, TX
12. Josh White, LB, Houston, TX
13. Max Johnson, QB, Watkinsville, GA
14. Eric Taylor, DT, Trussville, AL
15. Dwight McGlothern, CB, Spring, TX
16. Koy Moore, WR, Metairie, LA
17. Lorando Johnson, CB, Lancaster, TX
18. Marlon Martinez, OG, Fort Lauderdale, FL
19. Alex Adams, WR, Magnolia, MS
20. Kole Taylor, TE, Grand Junction, CO
21. Ali Gaye, DE, Edmonds, WA*
22. Xavier Hill, OG, Olive Branch, MS
23. TJ Finley, QB, Ponchatoula, LA
24. CamRon Jackson, DT, Haynesville, LA

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Gus Stark/LSU Athletics

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	29.9	60
Defense	26.7	10
Margin	**+3.2**	**27**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	57.4%	1
Defense	37.0%	19
Margin	**+20.4%**	**1**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	7.9	2
Defense	5.1	30
Margin	**+2.8**	**4**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	5.5	6
Defense	4.3	41
Margin	**+1.2**	**16**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	7.1	17
Actual	10	10
Margin	**+2.9**	**40**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

17.95

LSU averaged 46.29 yards per possession and surrendered 28.34 yards per drive defensively, meaning LSU outgained its opponents by an average of 17.95 yards per possession — the best margin in the SEC.

19.44%

The Tigers also created a lot of big plays on defense. LSU produced 196 havoc plays in 2019, which was the most in the SEC and ranked fourth in the country. Its 19.44 percent havoc rate was second best in the conference and ranked No. 14 in the country.

48.2

The Tigers ranked third nationally and at the top of the pack in the SEC with a 48.2 percent Power Success Rate in 2019, meaning LSU stopped its opponent from getting a first down on third- or fourth-down plays with two or fewer yards to go 51.8 percent of the time.

Fortunately for LSU, the Tigers possess a pair of solid cornerstones at tackle with former nose tackles Tyler Shelvin, a junior, and sophomore Siaki "Apu" Ika as projected starters and former starter Glen Logan, a senior, in support. Shelvin is one to watch as potentially a rising star in Pelini's system, in the mold of a Glenn Dorsey or Kyle Williams. The ends are more unsettled, though Orgeron says to watch freshman BJ Ojulari, whom he calls "perfect" for the 4-3 scheme.

LSU was hit hard at linebacker as two of the Tigers' top three tacklers, Jacob Phillips (113 stops) and Patrick Queen (85) left early for the NFL, along with pass-rush specialist K'Lavon Chaisson. But the arrival of graduate transfer Jabril Cox, an All-American outside linebacker for FCS powerhouse North Dakota State, could be a game changer. Junior Damone Clark and sophomore Marcel Brooks were tabbed as future stars last season and now must be productive starters.

Derek Stingley Jr. may be the best defensive back in America after picking off six passes, breaking up 15 more and recovering a fumble last season. With Kristian Fulton gone at the other corner, that position will go to sophomore Cordale Flott or five-star freshman Elias Ricks.

Jim Thorpe Award-winning safety Grant Delpit is in the NFL, but Orgeron did one of his best "recruiting" jobs in convincing safety JaCoby Stevens to return as a senior. Stevens is LSU's top returning tackler with 92 stops.

SPECIALISTS LSU returns kicker Cade York, who made 89-of-93 extra points and 21-of-27 field goals as a freshman. Also back is punter Zach Von Rosenberg (42.8 yards per punt), a former minor league baseball prospect who turns 30 on Sept. 24. The Tigers even bring back junior kickoff specialist Avery Atkins, who ranked third nationally in touchbacks in 2019. Stingley and Chase will return punts and kickoffs.

FINAL ANALYSIS There is no way LSU can avoid a drop-off, but don't expect a crash. There is still plenty of talent on hand. There are also big questions: Brennan, the offensive line and LSU's defensive transition under Pelini. But if the Tigers can do a reasonably good job answering them, a 10-win season and New Year's Six bowl are attainable goals.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (3)

WR	**7**	**Ja'Marr Chase (Jr.)**	17	Racey McMath (Sr.)
WR	**6**	**Terrace Marshall Jr. (Jr.)**	13	Jontre Kirklin (Sr.)
WR	33	Trey Palmer (So.)		Kayshon Boutte (Fr.)
LT	51	Dare Rosenthal (So.)	61	Cameron Wire (So.)
LG	70	Ed Ingram (Jr.)		Marcus Dumervil (Fr.)
C	57	Chasen Hines (Jr.)	73	Joseph Evans (Fr.)
RG	75	Anthony Bradford (Fr.)	58	Kardell Thomas (Fr.)
RT	**76**	**Austin Deculus (Sr.)**	78	Thomas Perry (Fr.)
TE	2	Arik Gilbert (Fr.)	80	Jamal Pettigrew (Sr.)
QB	15	Myles Brennan (Jr.)	14	Max Johnson (Fr.)
RB	24	Chris Curry (So.)	3	Tyrion Davis-Price (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	84	TK McLendon (Jr.)	46	Andre Anthony (Sr.)
DT	**72**	**Tyler Shelvin (Jr.)**	**97**	**Glen Logan (Sr.)**
DT	62	Siaki Ika (So.)	92	Neil Farrell Jr. (Sr.)
DE	93	Justin Thomas (Jr.)	8	BJ Ojulari (Fr.)
OLB	9	Marcel Brooks (So.)	43	Ray Thornton (Sr.)
MLB	35	Damone Clark (Jr.)		Antoine Sampah (Fr.)
OLB	42	Jabril Cox (Sr.)	23	Micah Baskerville (Jr.)
CB	**24**	**Derek Stingley Jr. (So.)**	16	Jay Ward (So.)
CB	25	Cordale Flott (So.)	1	Elias Ricks (Fr.)
SS	**3**	**JaCoby Stevens (Sr.)**	14	Maurice Hampton Jr. (So.)
FS	4	Todd Harris Jr. (Jr.)	**5**	**Kary Vincent Jr. (Sr.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	36	Cade York (So.)	**KR**	7	Ja'Marr Chase (Jr.)
P	38	Zach Von Rosenberg (Sr.)	**PR**	24	Derek Stingley Jr. (So.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Joe Burrow	527	402	5,671	60	6
Myles Brennan	**40**	**24**	**353**	**1**	**1**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Clyde Edwards-Helaire	215	1,414	6.6	16
Joe Burrow	115	368	3.2	5
Tyrion Davis-Price	**64**	**295**	**4.6**	**6**
Chris Curry	**38**	**189**	**5.0**	**0**
John Emery Jr.	**39**	**188**	**4.8**	**4**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Justin Jefferson	111	1,540	13.9	18
Ja'Marr Chase	**84**	**1,780**	**21.2**	**20**
Clyde Edwards-Helaire	55	453	8.2	1
Thaddeus Moss	47	570	12.1	4
Terrace Marshall Jr.	**46**	**671**	**14.6**	**13**

KICKING: **Cade York, 21-27 FGs, 152 pts.**

TACKLES: Jacob Phillips, 113; **JaCoby Stevens, 92**

SACKS: K'Lavon Chaisson, 6.5

INTERCEPTIONS: **Derek Stingley Jr., 6**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE TIGERS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP LSU

"They just had maybe one of the greatest single seasons in the history of the SEC. From the bottom up, on both sides of the ball, that 2019 team was one of the best ever. It started at the QB position, it was set up by smart, creative coaching and they had a bunch of killers on defense. So now most of that is gone and you're starting over, except now this is Ed Orgeron's program for a long time. That really changes the decision making. ... The one thing you hope they keep in the OC transition is the NFL emphasis, because Louisiana has the athletes to run it. Running backs lining up outside, receivers inside, shifting exotic personnel groups, all that stuff was a huge deal. It showed that at a top program you can play around with more pro concepts than most people thought. Credit again to Ed for trusting those guys. ... Dave Aranda is gone, but that's probably best for both parties. I think you saw a few times where Dave's scheme was so intricate it was overwhelming the players, especially if they had some depth issues or were banged up. Bo Pelini is going to live nicely with Ed. That caliber of athlete they have doesn't need to overthink it. Four down, pin your ears back and go."

OLE MISS Rebels

National Forecast: **38** · SEC West Prediction: **5** · Projected Record: **7-5, 4-4 SEC**

Jerrion Ealy

Once considered a boy genius among coaches, Lane Kiffin has at various times led a storied NFL franchise plus two different historical major college programs. Now, having turned 45 on May 9, he's back in the big chair at a Power 5 program for the first time in seven years, tasked with restoring relevance to the Ole Miss Rebels.

Ole Miss athletics director Keith Carter hopes he's caught Kiffin at a more mature time in the coach's career, perhaps in time for a rebirth similar to the one former Ole Miss coach Ed Orgeron, a good friend of Kiffin's, has experienced at LSU.

Kiffin hired Michigan up-and-comer Chris Partridge and veteran D.J. Durkin as co-defensive coordinators and Jeff Lebby, with stops at Baylor and UCF, as offensive coordinator.

"If you're going to make a change, you've got to get the next one right," Carter says. "There's a lot of pressure to do that. I couldn't be happier with our choice, and I think we got it right."

Kiffin will try to create more offensive balance with a team that was No. 2 in the SEC and No. 9 in the nation in rushing offense at 251.3 yards per game.

That wasn't enough to keep the Rebels from going 4–8 or keep former coach Matt Luke — now the offensive line coach at Georgia — from temporary unemployment.

OFFENSE Starting quarterback John Rhys Plumlee is back after leading the SEC in rushing yards per game at 113.7. If Plumlee is going to keep the job in a scheme that will be more balanced, he'll need to improve in the pass game where he completed just 52.7 percent after becoming QB1 four games into his freshman season. Sophomore Matt Corral will be the primary threat among three others in the mix.

The Rebels return dynamic talent at running back in home-run threat Jerrion Ealy, who accounted for 894 yards and eight touchdowns rushing and receiving.

Three-and-a-half starters return on the offensive line after talented sophomore Nick Broeker, who coaches believe has all-conference potential, split game reps with a senior at left tackle last year. Right guard Ben Brown, a redshirt junior, is in his third starting season. Senior Royce Newman will move to right tackle to replace the lone departure, Alex Givens.

Wide receiver looks to be a position with untapped potential. There were four highly regarded freshmen in the 2019 signing class who were mostly lost in a run-heavy offense. In addition, the hiring of Kiffin convinced two older players to remain instead of transfer. Junior slot receiver Elijah Moore is back after netting 67 catches and six touchdown passes last year. Temple grad transfer Kenny Yeboah is the favorite at tight end.

DEFENSE Kiffin and staff will only say "multiple" when asked about a scheme.

The Rebels are thin at the interior defensive line spots and whiffed on several prospects in the late signing period. Several players listed as ends on the spring roster

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Lane Kiffin
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 62-34 (7+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jeff Lebby
Defensive Coordinators: D.J. Durkin, Chris Partridge
Location: Oxford, MS
Stadium: Vaught-Hemingway Stadium (64,038)

KEY REBELS

JOHN RHYS PLUMLEE, QB As a freshman, he led the SEC in rushing yards per game at 113.7 and has the versatility to play other positions.

MATT CORRAL, QB Will challenge for the starting position; led the team with 1,362 passing yards and six passing touchdowns last year.

JERRION EALY, RB As true freshman, he averaged 6.9 yards per carry and was a big-play threat in the kick return game as well.

KEY LOSSES

BENITO JONES, DT All-SEC performer as a resurgent senior; finished with 10 tackles for a loss, 6.5 sacks and seven QB pressures.

JOSIAH COATNEY, DT Provided a solid 1-2 punch inside with Jones. Finished with 46 tackles, 3.5 tackles for a loss and four pressures.

JALEN JULIUS, S Physical hitter who played several positions in the secondary; was third on the team with 68 tackles.

RISING STAR

JONATHAN MINGO was a key wide receiver signee in the 2019 class but never blossomed in an offense that ran the ball more than 60 percent of the time. He started every game last season but had only 12 catches. His physicality could help him thrive in a more balanced scheme.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	vs. Baylor #
Sept.	12	SE Missouri State
Sept.	19	Auburn
Sept.	26	at LSU
Oct.	3	Alabama
Oct.	10	at Vanderbilt
Oct.	17	Florida
Oct.	24	Connecticut
Nov.	7	at Texas A&M
Nov.	14	at Arkansas
Nov.	21	Georgia Southern
Nov.	26	Mississippi State

#Houston

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 4-8, 2-6 SEC

Aug.	31	at Memphis	L	10-15
Sept.	7	Arkansas	W	31-17
Sept.	14	SE Louisiana	W	40-29
Sept.	21	California	L	20-28
Sept.	28	at Alabama	L	31-59
Oct.	5	Vanderbilt	W	31-6
Oct.	12	at Missouri	L	27-38
Oct.	19	Texas A&M	L	17-24
Nov.	2	at Auburn	L	14-20
Nov.	9	New Mexico State	W	41-3
Nov.	16	LSU	L	37-58
Nov.	28	at Mississippi State	L	20-21

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SEC	NATIONAL
Scoring	26.6 ppg	9	82
Rushing	251.3 ypg	2	9
Passing	194.0 ypg	10	102
Total	445.3 ypg	3	26
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	26.5 ppg	11	59
Rushing	138.5 ypg	8	42
Passing	278.3 ypg	14	120
Total	416.8 ypg	12	85
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
+1	+0.08	7	53

2020 RECRUITS

1. Demon Clowney, DE, Baltimore, MD
2. Henry Parrish, RB, Miami, FL
3. Marc Britt, ATH, Miami, FL
4. Jakivuan Brown, LB, Horn Lake, MS
5. Eli Acker, OT, Columbus, MS
6. Kentrel Bullock, RB, Columbia, MS
7. Brady Ward, OT, Mobile, AL
8. Lakevias Daniel, CB, Louisville, MS*
9. Derek Bermudez, S, Jacksonville, FL
10. Austin Keys, LB, Seminary, MS
11. Tobias Braun, OT, Salisbury, CT
12. DeSanto Rollins, DT, Baton Rouge, LA
13. DaMarcus Thomas, TE, Saraland, AL
14. Cedric Johnson, DE, Mobile, AL
15. Luke Shouse, OT, Brentwood, TN
16. Kade Renfro, QB, Stephenville, TX
17. Daylen Gill, S, Louisville, MS*
18. Cedric Melton, OT, Houston, TX

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247SportsComposite

AP Photo/Vasha Hunt

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	27.5	113
Defense	28.6	42
Margin	**-1.1**	**87**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	40.5%	87
Defense	42.8%	77
Margin	**-2.3%**	**87**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.0	54
Defense	5.8	84
Margin	**+0.2**	**68**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.1	100
Defense	3.9	19
Margin	**+0.2**	**53**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-3.7	94
Actual	1	53
Margin	**+4.7**	**25**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

-5

Ole Miss posted an 0–5 record in games decided by a single possession in 2019. The Rebels joined TCU (1–6) as the only FBS teams to finish -5 in such situations.

8.5%

The Rebels did a great job pressuring opposing quarterbacks in non-traditional passing situations. Ole Miss posted an 8.5 percent sack rate on standard downs (first down, second-and-7 or less, third- or fourth-and-4 or less) in 2019, which was the highest rate of any SEC defense and ranked among the top 10 nationally.

5.1%

Unfortunately, that success swung in the other direction on passing downs, where Ole Miss ranked at the bottom of the SEC leaderboard and sat No. 112 nationally with a 5.1 percent sack rate.

could end up helping out inside. Since the Rebels ran a 3-4 last year, there are outside linebackers to help at the end spots should Kiffin choose a four-man front.

Sam Williams, a first-year juco transfer at OLB, had six sacks and 9.5 tackles for a loss. Senior Ryder Anderson was playing the best football of his career as a disruptive edge rusher when a knee injury cut short his season. Throughout his career, he's added bulk to his 6'6" frame, and coaches hope he'll pick up where he left off. Freshman end Demon Clowney, the cousin of NFL defensive end Jadeveon Clowney, could be a factor.

Middle linebacker is the most experienced group as Ole Miss returns Lakia Henry and Jacquez Jones, its top two tacklers.

In addition, MoMo Sanogo, who gained some preseason All-SEC mention a year ago, returns from a broken ankle.

The surprise transfer of sophomore Deantre Prince creates a depth problem at cornerback, and the Rebels need young players to emerge at the safety spots.

SPECIALISTS Senior placekicker Luke Logan was inconsistent last year, hitting just 11-of-19 field goals. He'll be pushed by a handful of walk-ons in camp. Senior punter Mac Brown returns after averaging 44.3 yards on 57 punts.

Ealy brings big-play potential to the kick return game. He averaged 24.4 yards on 13 attempts, one of them a 94-yard touchdown.

FINAL ANALYSIS The cancellation of spring practice was an issue everywhere, but even more difficult for new coaches who hoped to begin quarterback competitions.

Kiffin hopes to name a quarterback who can lead an adaptable, explosive offense to carry a defense that will have to find its way. After his firing at USC, Kiffin was able to build such offenses as the coordinator at Alabama and head coach at Florida Atlantic.

Whoever takes the snaps will have to survive a brutal early schedule with Baylor, Auburn, LSU and Alabama in four of the first five games. Will Kiffin gamble that Plumlee, a dynamic athlete, can show great improvement as a passer, or will he go a different route and use Plumlee in other ways? It's a decision that will shape Kiffin's debut season.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**1**	**Jonathan Mingo (So.)**	3	Demarcus Gregory (So.)
WR	**8**	**Elijah Moore (Jr.)**	4	Tylan Knight (Jr.)
WR	13	Braylon Sanders (Sr.)	5	Dannis Jackson (So.)
LT	64	Nick Broeker (So.)	78	Jeremy James (Fr.)
LG	50	Jalen Cunningham (So.)	70	Carter Colquitt (Fr.)
C	**61**	**Eli Johnson (Sr.)**	75	Bryce Ramsey (Fr.)
RG	**55**	**Ben Brown (Jr.)**	68	Chandler Tuitt (Sr.)
RT	**72**	**Royce Newman (Sr.)**		Eli Acker (Fr.)
TE	88	Kenny Yeboah (Sr.)	83	Chase Rogers (Jr.)
QB	**10**	**John Rhys Plumlee (So.)**	2	Matt Corral (So.)
RB	9	Jerrion Ealy (So.)	24	Snoop Conner (So.)

DEFENSE (6)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**13**	**Sam Williams (Sr.)**	22	Tariqious Tisdale (Sr.)
DT	94	Quentin Bivens (So.)	55	KD Hill (So.)
DT	50	Patrick Lucas Jr. (Fr.)	91	Hal Northern (Sr.)
DE	89	Ryder Anderson (Sr.)	17	Demon Clowney (Fr.)
OLB	**10**	**Jacquez Jones (Jr.)**	14	Daylen Gill (Jr.)
MLB	**1**	**Lakia Henry (Sr.)**	35	Donta Evans (Sr.)
OLB	**46**	**MoMo Sanogo (Jr.)**	36	Ashanti Cistrunk (So.)
CB	31	Jaylon Jones (Sr.)	29	Lakevias Daniel (Jr.)
CB	**20**	**Keidron Smith (Jr.)**	9	Jalen Jordan (So.)
SS		Marc Britt (Fr.)	21	A.J. Finley (So.)
FS	**5**	**Jon Haynes (Sr.)**	28	Jay Stanley (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	92	Luke Logan (Sr.)	**KR**	9	Jerrion Ealy (So.)
P	96	Mac Brown (Sr.)	**PR**	8	Elijah Moore (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Matt Corral	178	105	1,362	6	3
John Rhys Plumlee	150	79	910	4	3
Grant Tisdale	2	2	56	1	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
John Rhys Plumlee	154	1,023	6.6	12
Jerrion Ealy	104	722	6.9	6
Scottie Phillips	125	542	4.3	5
Snoop Conner	81	512	6.3	5
Matt Corral	57	135	2.4	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Elijah Moore	67	850	12.7	6
Jerrion Ealy	20	172	8.6	1
Dontario Drummond	13	188	14.5	0
Octavious Cooley	13	162	12.5	0
Jonathan Mingo	12	172	14.3	1

KICKING: **Luke Logan, 11-19 FGs, 68 pts.**
TACKLES: **Lakia Henry, 87; Jacquez Jones, 71**
SACKS: **Sam Williams, 6.0**
INTERCEPTIONS: **Donta Evans, 2;** Deantre Prince, 2

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE REBELS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP OLE MISS

"They're in a better place than the other first-year staffed teams in the league. The running back position, the quarterback position, you see talent in the right spots. ... Last year they were a really inconsistent football team. The Egg Bowl lost Matt Luke the job, but football people would say you had a team that tried to make an identity week to week and kept failing. Lane Kiffin is a vast improvement over any offensive mindset they've had, including Hugh Freeze. ... The cupboard is not bare at all on offense. (Jerrion) Ealy and (John Rhys) Plumlee form a really solid base for (offensive coordinator Jeff) Lebby, and almost all of their receivers are back. The big question here and on defense is what kind of line play are we going to see? They got thin on both sides, and it cost them a lot of games. ... We expect to see a lot transfers coming in and winning jobs, especially on defense. D.J. Durkin is really the second head coach, Lane is probably going to give him a lot of liberty with the defense. ... Lane is going to be entertaining, he's Lane Kiffin. They're going to score points, they're going to embarrass your defense sometimes, but how consistent can they become? How legit can they recruit? He's the right guy for that culture, but is that culture ever going to produce a consistent winner?"

MISSISSIPPI STATE Bulldogs

National Forecast: **48** · SEC West Prediction: **6** · Projected Record: **6-6, 2-6 SEC**

Kylin Hill

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Mike Leach
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 139-90 (18 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Leach
Defensive Coordinator: Zach Arnett
Location: Starkville, MS
Stadium: Davis Wade Stadium (61,337)

KEY BULLDOGS

KYLIN HILL, RB Finished 2019 with 1,350 rushing yards, 10 TDs and an average of 5.6 yards per carry.

ERROLL THOMPSON, LB The team leader in tackles with 84, Thompson is the unquestioned leader of the Bulldog defense.

MARCUS MURPHY, FS A versatile, high-ceiling performer who has the ability to play multiple spots in the secondary and could contribute in the return game as well.

KEY LOSSES

WILLIE GAY, JR., LB Missed eight games last season due to a violation of team rules, but his energy and talent were huge difference-makers.

CAM DANTZLER, CB Mississippi State's best defensive back a year ago, he tied for the team lead in interceptions and pass breakups.

DARRYL WILLIAMS, C Surrendered only one sack over 365 pass-blocking snaps last year and was also valued for his leadership.

RISING STAR

Offensive lineman **CHARLES CROSS** is the only five-star prospect the Bulldogs have signed since 2016. He redshirted last year but may start living up to his potential this year. It's possible, perhaps even probable, that he'll be a starting tackle when the season kicks off.

There's a new sheriff in town in Starkville. Or in this case, a new pirate. Mississippi State is set for its first season under the leadership of Mike Leach, a man whose outlandish personality in press settings is perhaps only eclipsed by his knowledge of the game and ability to get the most out of his offenses.

Leach brings a whole new level of excitement to the Bulldogs after the school parted ways with previous head coach Joe Moorhead following last season. Moorhead spent just two years at Mississippi State in a tenure that many locally viewed as a disappointment. Now, enter Leach.

Mississippi State hired Leach in early January. He brings a big-time name and reputation with him as he tries to see if his traditionally successful coaching methods can translate in the unforgiving SEC West.

OFFENSE No matter the down or distance, Leach teams are unafraid to throw the football and will do so with regularity. Stanford graduate transfer K.J. Costello hasn't officially been tabbed as Leach's starting quarterback, but it's difficult to believe that he won't be. Costello boasts a 62.6 percent career completion percentage, along with 6,151 yards passing and 49 TDs through the air. Injuries limited him to only five games last season, but the year prior he had one of the best campaigns ever for a Cardinal quarterback, earning second-team All-Pac-12 honors with 3,540 passing yards, 29 TDs and a completion percentage of 65.1 percent.

Costello's résumé immediately makes him the most proven quarterback on the roster. The Bulldogs do have other options, including exciting dual-threat sophomore Garrett Shrader, who played in 10 games and started four last season, but Costello seems likely to get the first crack at running the Mississippi State version of the Air Raid barring something unforeseen.

Meanwhile, at running back, the Bulldogs welcome back Kylin Hill for his senior season, and he could be set up for a monster year. He led the SEC in rushing yardage in the regular season in 2019.

The biggest question mark for the Mississippi State offense is at receiver. The Bulldogs haven't had a 600-plus-yard receiver since 2016. That will almost assuredly need to change if Leach is to win.

Of course the key to any offensive success is the line. Mississippi State did lose a pair of starters up front from what was a solid group last year, but there is quality depth and several options to replace those losses.

DEFENSE As Leach brings his Air Raid offense, new defensive coordinator Zach Arnett brings his 3-3-5 defense to the Bulldogs. If Arnett can be as successful in Starkville with his scheme as he was in his previous stop at San Diego State, that's good news for Mississippi State. Over the last two seasons at San Diego State, Arnett's defense ranked in the top 15 nationally in multiple categories, including rushing yards allowed per game, rushing yards allowed per carry, and yards allowed per play.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	New Mexico
Sept.	12	at NC State
Sept.	19	Arkansas
Sept.	26	Tulane
Oct.	3	Texas A&M
Oct.	17	at Alabama
Oct.	24	at LSU
Oct.	31	Auburn
Nov.	7	Missouri
Nov.	14	at Kentucky
Nov.	21	Alabama A&M
Nov.	26	at Ole Miss

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 6-7, 3-5 SEC

Aug.	31	vs. Louisiana #	W	38-28
Sept.	7	Southern Miss	W	38-15
Sept.	14	Kansas State	L	24-31
Sept.	21	Kentucky	W	28-13
Sept.	28	at Auburn	L	23-56
Oct.	12	at Tennessee	L	10-20
Oct.	19	LSU	L	13-36
Oct.	26	at Texas A&M	L	30-49
Nov.	2	at Arkansas	W	54-24
Nov.	16	Alabama	L	7-38
Nov.	23	Abilene Christian	W	45-7
Nov.	28	Ole Miss	W	21-20
Dec.	30	vs. Louisville %	L	28-38

#New Orleans %Music City Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SEC	NATIONAL
Scoring	27.6 ppg	7	74
Rushing	220.6 ypg	3	21
Passing	179.5 ypg	12	109
Total	400.1 ypg	7	70
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	28.8 ppg	12	74
Rushing	152.4 ypg	10	59
Passing	246.8 ypg	13	97
Total	399.2 ypg	11	73
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
+1	+0.08	9	57

2020 RECRUITS

1. Jo'quavious Marks, RB, Atlanta, GA
2. Emmanuel Forbes, CB, Grenada, MS
3. Lideatrick Griffin, ATH, Philadelphia, MS
4. Jordan Davis, DE, Memphis, TN*
5. Malik Heath, WR, Jackson, MS*
6. Dillon Johnson, ATH, Greenville, MS
7. Janari Dean, S, Batesville, MS
8. Jevon Banks, DE, Olive Branch, MS
9. Rodney Groce Jr., LB, Pleasant Grove, AL
10. Jaden Walley, ATH, Biloxi, MS
11. Tyrus Wheat, LB, Amite, LA*
12. Javorrius Selmon, ATH, Jackson, MS
13. Will Rogers, QB, Brandon, MS
14. Decamerion Richardson, CB, Bossier City, LA
15. Armondous Cooley, DT, Waynesboro, MS
16. Caleb Ducking, WR, Rolling Fork, MS*
17. Cam Threatt, CB, Olive Branch, MS
18. Jamari Stewart, DE, Port Saint Lucie, FL
19. Tre Lawson, DE, North Augusta, SC*
20. Grant Jackson, OT, Brookhaven, MS
21. Calvin McMillian, OT, Houston, MS
22. Rufus Harvey, WR, Starkville, MS
23. Kyle Cass, CB, Eight Mile, AL*

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Aaron Cornia/Mississippi State Athletics

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	27.2	117
Defense	31.6	114
Margin	**-4.4**	**119**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	44.5%	42
Defense	44.5%	91
Margin	**+0.0%**	**70**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.2	37
Defense	6.3	107
Margin	**-0.1**	**82**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.7	55
Defense	4.5	68
Margin	**+0.2**	**57**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	3.7	36
Actual	1	53
Margin	**-2.7**	**91**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

+5.83

Mississippi State averaged 68.71 offensive snaps per game in 2019, second fewest in the SEC. Under Mike Leach, the 2019 Washington State offense averaged 74.54 plays — 5.83 more snaps per game.

20.42%

The Bulldogs proved capable of picking up big chunks of yardage when they did decide to run the ball. In 2019, State churned out 108 carries that gained 10 yards or more in 529 total attempts — 20.42 percent, which led the SEC and ranked third nationally.

3.71

The Bulldogs were one of the nation's top rushing offenses in passing situations. On passing downs (third- or fourth-and-5 or longer), State averaged 3.71 line yards (per-carry average of rushing yards credited to the offensive line) per attempt. That mark led the SEC.

Arnett inherits a defense full of talent, but low on big names. Senior linebacker Erroll Thompson — last season's leading tackler — is the heart and soul of the Mississippi State defense, but beyond him there are many unknowns.

Up front, Mississippi State seems to be in pretty good shape. A season ago, the Bulldogs were young and inexperienced along the defensive line. However, tackle Nathan Pickering emerged as an All-SEC Freshman, and he joins fellow tackle Jaden Crumedy and veteran ends Kobe Jones and Marquiss Spencer to give the Bulldogs the makings of a solid front.

Meanwhile, Mississippi State's success in the secondary will largely hinge on the development of youngsters. Junior safety Marcus Murphy is one of the leaders of a group that needs players like sophomore corner Martin Emerson to step up.

The secondary's performance could very well make or break the Mississippi State defense. Last season, the Bulldogs were hurt through the air, surrendering 246.8 passing yards per game. They'll need to improve on that for this team to reach its peak.

SPECIALISTS Jace Christmann has been Mississippi State's placekicker the last three seasons, but he'll be challenged this year by Arizona State graduate transfer Brandon Ruiz. Christmann has made 32 of his 40 career field-goal tries. Meanwhile, Ruiz made 37 of his 49 field goals in two years at Arizona State.

Tucker Day was Mississippi State's punter last season, and he returns after averaging 42.6 yards per punt a year ago.

The Bulldogs will need to find players to rely on in the return game as most of last year's contributors are gone.

FINAL ANALYSIS Leach's arrival has brought both excitement and ramped-up expectations. Whether or not Leach lives up to the hype will largely be determined by whether his offense continues to put up yards and points, as it has done throughout his career. There is a question as to how effectively Leach's style can work consistently against the athleticism of SEC defenses. If it can, the Bulldogs can overachieve. If it can't, the jubilation of Leach's arrival may quickly be gone.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (5)

WR	**5**	**Osirus Mitchell (Sr.)**	18	Cameron Gardner (So.)
WR	4	JaVonta Payton (Sr.)		Malik Heath (Jr.)
WR	85	Austin Williams (Jr.)	11	Geor'quarius Spivey (So.)
WR		Caleb Ducking (Jr.)		Lideatrick Griffin (Fr.)
LT	67	Charles Cross (Fr.)	69	Kwatrivous Johnson (So.)
LG	**56**	**Dareuan Parker (Sr.)**	74	Nick Pendley (Fr.)
C	63	LaQuinston Sharp (Sr.)	57	Cole Smith (So.)
RG	**51**	**Stewart Reese (Sr.)**	58	Kameron Jones (So.)
RT	**55**	**Greg Eiland (Sr.)**		Scott Lashley (Sr.)
QB		K.J. Costello (Sr.)	6	Garrett Shrader (So.)
RB	**8**	**Kylin Hill (Sr.)**	22	Lee Witherspoon (So.)

DEFENSE (4)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**42**	**Marquiss Spencer (Sr.)**	9	De'Monte Russell (Fr.)
DT	22	Nathan Pickering (So.)	**84**	**Jaden Crumedy (So.)**
DE	52	Kobe Jones (Sr.)		Jordan Davis (Jr.)
OLB	18	Aaron Brule (So.)		Rodney Groce (Fr.)
MLB	**40**	**Erroll Thompson (Sr.)**	14	Nathaniel Watson (So.)
OLB		Jordan Davis (Jr.)		Tre Lawson (Jr.)
CB	1	Martin Emerson (So.)	2	Jarrian Jones (So.)
CB	13	Tyler Williams (Jr.)	16	Korey Charles (Sr.)
NB	38	Fred Peters (Sr.)	24	Dylan Lawrence (Fr.)
SS	**29**	**C.J. Morgan (Sr.)**	12	Shawn Preston Jr. (So.)
FS	7	Marcus Murphy (Jr.)	35	Landon Guidry (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	47	Jace Christmann (Sr.)	**KR**	4	JaVonta Payton (Sr.)
P	37	Tucker Day (Jr.)	**PR**	7	Marcus Murphy (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Garrett Shrader	**153**	**88**	**1,170**	**8**	**5**
Tommy Stevens	161	97	1,155	11	5
Logan Burnett	1	1	8	0	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Kylin Hill	**242**	**1,350**	**5.6**	**10**
Garrett Shrader	**113**	**587**	**5.2**	**6**
Nick Gibson	55	443	7.9	6
Tommy Stevens	83	381	4.6	4
Lee Witherspoon	22	101	4.6	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Deddrick Thomas	30	401	13.4	2
Stephen Guidry	30	387	12.9	5
Osirus Mitchell	**29**	**430**	**14.8**	**6**
Farrod Green	21	257	12.2	1
Kylin Hill	**18**	**180**	**10.0**	**1**

KICKING: **Jace Christmann, 8-10 FGs, 63 pts.**
TACKLES: **Erroll Thompson, 84**; Jaquarius Landrews, 77
SACKS: Chauncey Rivers, 5.0
INTERCEPTIONS: Cameron Dantzler, 2; **Marcus Murphy, 2**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE BULLDOGS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP MISSISSIPPI STATE

"It's really hard to predict how this first year will go with Mike Leach. You think they'll follow his pattern and beat one or two teams they shouldn't but lack overall consistency. ... Defensively they're on the decline. They're losing size and speed year after year. We're about to see a really interesting experiment in the SEC. If Mike's running his offense, and we certainly expect that, how long can the defense hold up? Hiring (defensive coordinator Zach) Arnett tells us he's going fast on offense, because that guy was headed to coach opposite Dino Babers at Syracuse. It could be bad, especially if there's a learning curve for the offense and they're creating a lot of quick, non-scoring drives. This is a ruthless, physical league that's built on the line of scrimmage. We're gonna find out right away if teams just grind them down. And does that hurt them in recruiting that side of the ball? ... K.J. Costello will be their best option at quarterback, but he's not necessarily a 'Leach guy' for that offense. Who are the playmakers at receiver? How are they going to respond to losing practices in the spring?. ... Maybe the biggest question is off the field. Mike is his own man, and he won't run himself to death. The velocity and the severity of recruiting in this conference is nothing he's ever been a part of."

TEXAS A&M Aggies

National Forecast: **11** · SEC West Prediction: **3** · Projected Record: **9-3, 5-3 SEC**

Kellen Mond

Though 17 victories in two football seasons aren't bad, Texas A&M envisioned much more when luring coach Jimbo Fisher away from Florida State.

Since then, Fisher has produced a couple of top-10 recruiting classes. That's impressive, but A&M is paying Fisher handsomely to produce top-10 teams.

This could be the year he delivers. The youthful Aggies of 2019, who had six true freshmen in the starting lineup, have grown into an experienced, senior-laden unit.

Improvement is needed, of course. The offensive line, secondary and pass rush must be bolstered. Senior quarterback Kellen Mond is good but needs to raise his level of play. If strides are made in those areas, Texas A&M could become a top-10 team and legitimate championship contender.

OFFENSE Mond accumulated 3,398 yards of total offense in 2019 to rank second in the Southeastern Conference. Still, some feel he regressed. That's up for debate, but there's little doubt he needs to be better for the Aggies to become championship contenders. Quicker reads, fewer interceptions and more runs would suffice.

The running game projects to be in good shape with physical sophomore Isaiah Spiller likely to get most of the carries. He started his freshman season as a backup but finished with 946 rushing yards and 10 touchdowns. Converted receiver Ainias Smith and speedy incoming freshman Devon Achane provide big-play capability.

Big-play threats are also needed at receiver. A&M managed only 10 pass plays that covered 30 yards or more last season. Senior Jhamon Ausbon had six of those. There's no shortage of candidates to take over starting roles. Senior Camron Buckley has been steady in a backup role throughout his career, while sophomores Caleb Chapman and Dylan Wright are ready to challenge for significant playing time. Tight end is quite literally in good hands with sophomore Jalen Wydermyer, who had 32 catches and a team-leading six touchdowns as a freshman. Also, redshirt freshman Baylor Cupp returns from a broken leg that sidelined him all of last season.

The offensive line remains a major area of concern. A&M has allowed 69 sacks over the past two seasons and last year often struggled to run block in short-yardage situations. Four starters are back up front, but changes could be in store. Sophomore Kenyon Green may shift from right guard to left tackle, which is his natural position. That would result in Dan Moore Jr. changing positions and moving into a backup role. Right tackle Carson Green and left guard Jared Hocker aren't likely to move, but improvement is needed from both. Center is a problem that must be solved. Ryan McCollum was expected to start there last season until suffering a ruptured disc in offseason workouts. He got minimal work at center and guard. If fully recovered, he may be the solution at center. If not, sophomore Luke Matthews, younger brother of former All-America tackle Jake Matthews, or redshirt freshman Layden Robinson could fill that role.

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Jimbo Fisher
Record at School: 17-9 (2 year)
Career Record: 100-32 (10 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Darrell Dickey
Defensive Coordinator: Mike Elko
Location: College Station, TX
Stadium: Kyle Field (102,733)

KEY AGGIES

KELLEN MOND, QB Some feel he regressed even though he ranked second in total offense in the SEC. He does need to reduce turnovers.

JHAMON AUSBON, WR Looking to build on the most productive season of his career, Ausbon aims to make more big plays.

JALEN WYDERMYER, TE Coming off a surprisingly productive freshman year in which he had a team-high six touchdown catches.

KEY LOSSES

JUSTIN MADUBUIKE, DT All-SEC selection opted to enter the NFL draft after leading A&M in sacks and tackles for a loss.

QUARTNEY DAVIS, WR Left for the NFL draft following a two-year career in which he averaged 12.1 yards on 99 catches and scored 11 TDs.

BRADEN MANN, P Record-setting All-American and 2018 Ray Guy Award winner averaged 48.9 yards per punt in his career.

RISING STAR

Incoming freshman **JAYLON JONES** figures to solve a lot of the Aggies' cornerback issues. A five-star prospect, Jones is the nation's top-rated safety, but scouts say he's just as good at corner. That's a position of need for A&M, which last season was vulnerable to big plays.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Abilene Christian
Sept.	12	North Texas
Sept.	19	Colorado
Sept.	26	vs. Arkansas #
Oct.	3	at Mississippi State
Oct.	10	Fresno State
Oct.	17	at Auburn
Oct.	24	at South Carolina
Nov.	7	Ole Miss
Nov.	14	Vanderbilt
Nov.	21	at Alabama
Nov.	28	LSU

#Arlington, TX

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5, 4-4 SEC

Aug.	29	Texas State	W	41-7
Sept.	7	at Clemson	L	10-24
Sept.	14	Lamar	W	62-3
Sept.	21	Auburn	L	20-28
Sept.	28	vs. Arkansas #	W	31-27
Oct.	12	Alabama	L	28-47
Oct.	19	at Ole Miss	W	24-17
Oct.	26	Mississippi State	W	49-30
Nov.	2	UTSA	W	45-14
Nov.	16	South Carolina	W	30-6
Nov.	23	at Georgia	L	13-19
Nov.	30	at LSU	L	7-50
Dec.	27	vs. Oklahoma State %	W	24-21

#Arlington %Texas Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SEC	NATIONAL
Scoring	29.5 ppg	6	62
Rushing	159.1 ypg	8	68
Passing	235.4 ypg	4	64
Total	394.5 ypg	8	72
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	22.5 ppg	9	37
Rushing	130.7 ypg	5	30
Passing	209.5 ypg	7	41
Total	340.2 ypg	8	29
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SEC**	**NATIONAL**
-6	-0.46	14	100

2020 RECRUITS

1. Jaylon Jones, S, Cibolo, TX
2. Demond Demas, WR, Tomball, TX
3. Donell Harris Jr., DE, Miami, FL
4. McKinnley Jackson, DT, Lucedale, MS
5. Antonio Johnson Jr., S, East St. Louis, IL
6. Antonio Doyle Jr., LB, Saint Louis, MO
7. Chris Morris, OG, West Memphis, AR
8. Haynes King, QB, Longview, TX
9. Devon Achane, RB, Missouri City, TX
10. Fadil Diggs, DE, Camden, NJ
11. Moose Muhammad III, WR, Charlotte, NC
12. Edgerrin Cooper, LB, Covington, LA
13. Aki Ogunbiyi, OG, Sugar Land, TX
14. Brian George, CB, Belle Glade, FL*
15. Josh Moten, CB, Fort Washington, MD
16. Isaiah Raikes, DT, Richland, NJ
17. Dallas Walker IV, DT, Smyrna, TN
18. Darvon Hubbard, RB, Surprise, AZ
19. Devin Price, WR, College Station, TX
20. Blake Smith, TE, Southlake, TX
21. Josh Bankhead, OG, The Woodlands, TX
22. Smart Chibuzo, OG, Missouri City, TX
23. Deondre Jackson, RB, Stone Mountain, GA
24. Kenneth Phillips III, LB, Richmond, TX
25. Earnest Crownover, RB, Grandview, TX*
26. Jordan Jefferson, C, Navasota, TX

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Paul Abell

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	30.1	55
Defense	27.2	18
Margin	**+2.9**	**33**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	45.8%	23
Defense	39.0%	36
Margin	**+6.8%**	**21**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	5.8	65
Defense	5.3	35
Margin	**+0.5**	**44**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.9	30
Defense	4.3	36
Margin	**+0.6**	**30**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-4.4	100
Actual	-6	100
Margin	**-1.6**	**84**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

24.7%

Texas A&M ranked in the middle of the pack in the SEC in most traditional rushing defense categories, including No. 9 in yards allowed per attempt (4.07). But A&M made its opponents earn those yards. The Aggies led the conference with a 24.7 percent stuff rate (rushing plays stopped at or behind the line of scrimmage).

3

Texas A&M's special teams units blocked three kicks in 2019, which tied for No. 15 in the country and ranked second in the SEC.

33:01

Traditional time of possession may have fallen out of fashion in college football in recent seasons, but 10 of the top 11 teams in time of possession played in a bowl game in 2019. No. 11 Texas A&M managed possession for an average of 33:01 per game — most in the SEC.

DEFENSE A year ago, A&M was ranked among the nation's top 30 in total defense. The Aggies could be better this season, although star tackle Justin Madubuike must be replaced. Senior Jayden Peevy, who has NFL potential, figures to step into that spot. He posted 34 tackles and 2.5 sacks in a backup role as a junior. Tackle Bobby Brown III is hoping that losing a few pounds to get down to 320 will make him better.

A bigger concern is bolstering a mediocre pass rush. Agile sophomore Demarvin Leal, who shifted from tackle to end, should help boost the sack total. Incoming freshmen Fadil Diggs and Donell Harris could immediately move into the defensive end rotation.

Not long ago, linebacker play was abysmal. That's not the case anymore. Buddy Johnson and Anthony Hines III are coming off solid showings in their first seasons as full-time starters. Both posted more than 70 tackles and nine stops for lost yardage. Still, they need to improve. A&M allowed 67 running plays of at least 10 yards.

Upgrades are needed in a secondary that allowed too many big plays. Highly touted incoming freshmen Jaylon Jones and Antonio Johnson Jr. and junior college transfer cornerback Brian George will help. Getting cornerback Elijah Blades back from shoulder surgery is a boost, too. Safety Demani Richardson is a budding star.

SPECIALISTS The return units will be good, perhaps outstanding. Smith averaged almost 12 yards on 16 punt returns last season. He often seemed one step away from scoring. Achane will bring great speed to kickoff returns. Kicker Seth Small is reliable inside 50 yards. Australian Nik Constantinou faces the task of replacing All-America punter Braden Mann.

FINAL ANALYSIS An experienced roster that includes a senior QB, the leading rusher, receiver, four starting offensive linemen, and top four tacklers has raised expectations for 2020. So has a schedule that's much less imposing with Colorado and Vanderbilt replacing Clemson and Georgia. A&M aspires for greatness. That requires beating great teams. Last season, the Aggies only won games they were supposed to win. Do that in 2020 and a 9–1 or 10–0 record in late November is a real possibility. But then Alabama and LSU loom.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**2**	**Jhamon Ausbon (Sr.)**	82	Dylan Wright (Fr.)
WR	14	Camron Buckley (Sr.)	18	Kam Brown (Fr.)
WR		Demond Demas (Fr.)	81	Caleb Chapman (So.)
LT	**65**	**Dan Moore Jr. (Sr.)**	64	Layden Robinson (Fr.)
LG	**73**	**Jared Hocker (Sr.)**	71	Grayson Reed (Jr.)
C	77	Ryan McCollum (Sr.)	60	Bart Clement (So.)
RG	**55**	**Kenyon Green (So.)**	75	Luke Matthews (So.)
RT	**54**	**Carson Green (Sr.)**	53	Blake Trainor (Fr.)
TE	**85**	**Jalen Wydermyer (So.)**	88	Baylor Cupp (Fr.)
QB	**11**	**Kellen Mond (Sr.)**	10	Zach Calzada (Fr.)
RB	**28**	**Isaiah Spiller (So.)**	17	Ainias Smith (So.)

DEFENSE (8)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**8**	**Demarvin Leal (So.)**	15	Jeremiah Martin (Jr.)
DT	**5**	**Bobby Brown III (Jr.)**	99	Josh Rogers (Jr.)
DT	92	Jayden Peevy (Sr.)	6	Derick Hunter (Fr.)
DE	**91**	**Micheal Clemons (Sr.)**	**3**	**Tyree Johnson (Jr.)**
MLB	**1**	**Buddy Johnson (Sr.)**	33	Aaron Hansford (Sr.)
OLB	**19**	**Anthony Hines III (Jr.)**	32	Andre White Jr. (So.)
CB	2	Elijah Blades (Sr.)		Brian George (Jr.)
CB	**10**	**Myles Jones (Sr.)**	17	Jaylon Jones (Fr.)
NB	7	Devin Morris (Jr.)	22	Clifford Chattman (Sr.)
S	**26**	**Demani Richardson (So.)**	13	Erick Young (So.)
S	14	Keldrick Carper (Sr.)	27	Antonio Johnson Jr. (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	47	Seth Small (Jr.)	**KR**		Devon Achane (Fr.)
P	95	Nik Constantinou (Fr.)	**PR**	17	Ainias Smith (So.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Kellen Mond	**419**	**258**	**2,897**	**20**	**9**
Zach Calzada	**24**	**12**	**133**	**2**	**1**
James Foster	**9**	**3**	**30**	**0**	**0**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Isaiah Spiller	**174**	**946**	**5.4**	**10**
Kellen Mond	**126**	**501**	**4.0**	**8**
Cordarrian Richardson	25	232	9.3	4
Jashaun Corbin	35	137	3.9	1
Jacob Kibodi	31	123	4.0	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Jhamon Ausbon	**66**	**872**	**13.2**	**5**
Quartney Davis	54	616	11.4	4
Jalen Wydermyer	**32**	**447**	**14.0**	**6**
Kendrick Rogers	30	351	11.7	2
Isaiah Spiller	**29**	**203**	**7.0**	**0**

KICKING: **Seth Small, 18-23 FGs, 100 pts.**
TACKLES: **Buddy Johnson, 77; Anthony Hines III, 73**
SACKS: Justin Madubuike, 5.5
INTERCEPTIONS: Roney Elam, 2; **Myles Jones, 2**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE AGGIES

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP TEXAS A&M

"This is the season that's going to make or break Jimbo Fisher. It's not that he's on the hot seat at all with that contract, but this is the year he has to show them he can make A&M a national title contender. The schedule is as good as they can manage it, and they could be undefeated headed into the November games. ... The theme for them is everyone taking that next step. It starts with Kellen Mond. He's had the experience, he's been in the system, now how good can he be in pressure situations? Can he make better decisions? Can he stay a threat running and still be an effective decision-maker passing the ball? ... The running backs were young last year, they should be better this season. That's another case of a talented position that's well recruited. Now you have to show out. ... They're good on defense, and Mike Elko is really one of the best in the business. They've overhauled that thing to where you're seeing stuff you're not used to from them or really any Texas school. ...The schedule and the returning talent has created high expectations, but the depth is still a concern. That's the one thing missing they can't really fix this year, so if they're going to make this run, health is going to be a big deal."

Sun Belt *Preview*

EAST DIVISION	PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH	WEST DIVISION

1 *Appalachian State* **MOUNTAINEERS** 9-4, 7-1 Sun Belt

2 *Georgia Southern* **EAGLES** 6-6, 5-3 Sun Belt

3 *Troy* **TROJANS** 5-7, 3-5 Sun Belt

4 *Georgia State* **PANTHERS** 4-8, 3-5 Sun Belt

5 *Coastal Carolina* **CHANTICLEERS** 4-8, 3-5 Sun Belt

1 *Louisiana* **RAGIN CAJUNS** 11-2, 7-1 Sun Belt

2 *Arkansas State* **RED WOLVES** 7-5, 6-2 Sun Belt

3 *South Alabama* **JAGUARS** 4-8, 3-5 Sun Belt

4 *ULM* **WARHAWKS** 3-9, 2-6 Sun Belt

5 *Texas State* **BOBCATS** 2-10, 1-7 Sun Belt

Sun Belt Championship:
Louisiana over Appalachian State

Games to Watch

SEPT. 5
ARKANSAS STATE AT MEMPHIS
The perennially competitive Red Wolves could strike a blow for Sun Belt credibility with a win over their neighbors to the east.

SEPT. 11
APP. STATE AT WAKE FOREST
Shawn Clark enters his first season at the helm in Boone at 1–0 after guiding App State to a New Orleans Bowl win.

SEPT. 19
APP. STATE AT WISCONSIN
Another challenge for the Mountaineers, although they did record Power 5 wins over North Carolina and South Carolina last season.

SEPT. 26
GEORGIA SOUTHERN AT LOUISIANA
The reigning Sun Belt West champion Cajuns welcome a dangerous Georgia Southern team led by dual-threat QB Shai Werts.

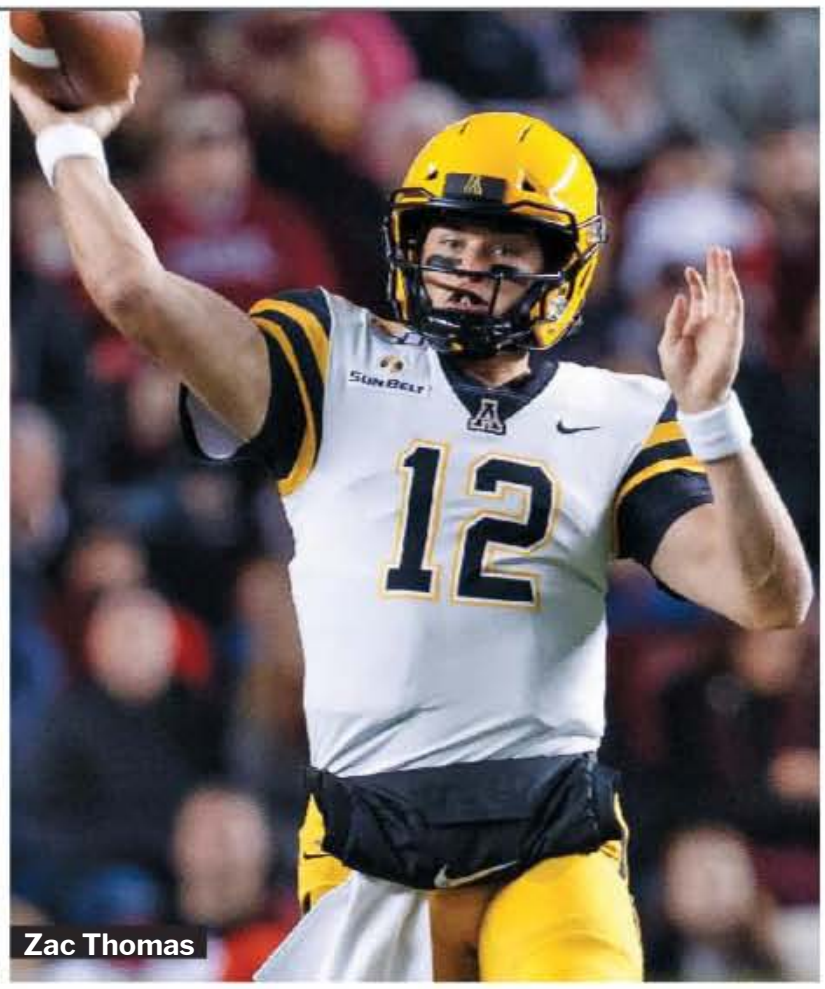
OCT. 3
TROY AT SOUTH ALABAMA
Two teams in search of some positive momentum will meet up in Mobile. Troy was a 10-game winner as recently as 2018.

OCT. 7
LOUISIANA AT APP. STATE
A rematch of the 2019 Sun Belt Championship could provide a preview of the 2020 edition. These two combined for a 24–4 record last season.

Thomas: App State Athletics; Werts: AJ Henderson/Georgia Southern Athletics

2020 Unit Rankings

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
Appalachian State	1	2	2	1	1	3	1
Arkansas State	3	6	4	3	7	7	7
Coastal Carolina	5	8	9	5	4	6	10
Georgia State	9	7	3	4	6	5	8
Georgia Southern	4	5	10	7	3	2	9
Louisiana	2	1	5	2	2	4	2
South Alabama	7	9	8	9	10	8	4
Texas State	8	10	7	10	9	10	6
Troy	6	3	1	6	5	1	5
ULM	10	4	6	8	8	9	3


Zac Thomas

Recruiting by School

1. Louisiana
2. Appalachian State
3. Troy
4. Arkansas State
5. Georgia Southern
6. Texas State
7. South Alabama
8. Georgia State
9. Coastal Carolina
10. ULM

Shai Werts

2020 Bowl Projections

Camellia Bowl: Georgia Southern vs. Ball State

LendingTree Bowl: Appalachian State vs. Ohio

Myrtle Beach Bowl: Arkansas State vs. Charlotte

New Orleans Bowl: Louisiana vs. WKU

Sun Belt Coordinator Carousel

Appalachian State: Offense
New: Tony Petersen
Old: Eliah Drinkwitz

Appalachian State: Defense
New: Dale Jones
Old: Ted Roof

Louisiana: Defense
New: Patrick Toney
Old: Ron Roberts

Texas State: Offense
New: Jacob Peeler
Old: Bob Stitt

ULM: Offense
New: Eman Naghavi
Old: Matt Kubik

OCT. 14
APP. STATE AT GEORGIA SOUTHERN
Mountaineers quarterback Zac Thomas could burnish his All-Sun Belt credentials with a win over the Eagles in Statesboro.

OCT. 24
ARKANSAS STATE AT APP. STATE
Louisiana will certainly have a say in the matter, but this matchup is a possible preview of the Sun Belt Championship.

NOV. 5
ARKANSAS STATE AT LOUISIANA
Arkansas State's title drought is now at four seasons. The Red Wolves want to resume their role as the SBC's bell cow.

NOV. 21
LOUISIANA AT MISSOURI
New Missouri coach Eliah Drinkwitz is plenty familiar with his opponent after sweeping two games against the Cajuns in 2019 in his lone season as Appalachian State head coach.

NOV. 28
GEORGIA SO. AT GEORGIA STATE
Both the Eagles and Panthers went bowling in 2019, and this season-ending matchup could have postseason ramifications once again.

NOV. 28
LOUISIANA AT ULM
The Ragin' Cajuns have won 10 of the last 12 in the Battle on the Bayou rivalry, although the last two wins have come by a total of four points.

Sun Belt *Preview*

Wesley Kennedy III

Sun Belt Returning Leaders

Passing	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	AVG/G
Layne Hatcher, Arkansas State	310	204	65.8	2,946	27	10	294.6
Levi Lewis, Louisiana	378	243	64.3	3,050	26	4	217.9
Zac Thomas, App. State	359	225	62.7	2,718	28	6	194.1

Rushing	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
Josh Johnson, ULM	201	1,298	6.5	11	53	108.2
Wesley Kennedy III, Georgia Southern	119	824	6.9	11	71	91.6
CJ Marable, Coastal Carolina	204	1,085	5.3	11	75	90.4

Receiving	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
Kaylon Geiger, Troy	77	873	11.3	5	57	72.8
Corey Sutton, Appalachian State	41	601	14.7	7	54	66.8
Jonathan Adams Jr., Arkansas State	62	851	13.7	5	63	65.5

Tackles: Carlton Martial, Troy (126), Trajan Stephens-McQueen, Georgia State (110)
Sacks: Tarron Jackson, Coastal Carolina (10.0), Joe Dillon, Louisiana (8.0)
Interceptions: Corey Straughter, ULM (5), Shaun Jolly, Appalachian State (5)

2019 Sun Belt Standings

EAST	SBC	OVERALL	WEST	SBC	OVERALL
Appalachian State	7-1	13-1	Louisiana	7-1	11-3
Georgia Southern	5-3	7-6	Arkansas State	5-3	8-5
Georgia State	4-4	7-6	ULM	4-4	5-7
Troy	3-5	5-7	Texas State	2-6	3-9
Coastal Carolina	2-6	5-7	South Alabama	1-7	2-10

2019 Bowl Results

Arizona Bowl: Wyoming 38, Georgia State 17

Cure Bowl: Liberty 23, Georgia Southern 16

Camellia Bowl: Arkansas State 34, FIU 26

LendingTree Bowl: Louisiana 27, Miami (Ohio) 17

New Orleans Bowl: Appalachian State 31, UAB 17

2019 Sun Belt Team Stats & Rankings

Offense

	SCORING	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
Appalachian State	38.8 (1)	231.4 (4)	201.7 (6)	433.1 (6)
Arkansas State	33.7 (4)	127.2 (9)	312.1 (2)	439.3 (5)
Coastal Carolina	30.3 (7)	195.5 (6)	198.3 (7)	393.8 (7)
Georgia Southern	28.2 (8)	253.2 (2)	74.5 (10)	327.7 (9)
Georgia State	31.2 (6)	241.6 (3)	198.2 (8)	439.8 (4)
Louisiana	37.9 (2)	257.4 (1)	236.7 (5)	494.1 (1)
South Alabama	18.4 (9T)	171.4 (7)	158.8 (9)	330.3 (8)
Texas State	18.4 (9T)	76.8 (10)	241.1 (4)	317.8 (10)
Troy	33.8 (3)	143.1 (8)	313.2 (1)	456.3 (3)
ULM	31.6 (5)	207.5 (5)	253.4 (3)	460.9 (2)

Defense

	SCORING	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
Appalachian State	20.0 (2)	129.4 (1)	206.7 (3)	336.1 (1)
Arkansas State	34.2 (7)	215.5 (7)	262.8 (9)	478.3 (9)
Coastal Carolina	30.5 (4)	160.3 (4)	223.3 (5)	383.6 (4)
Georgia Southern	28.2 (3)	136.3 (2)	242.8 (8)	379.2 (3)
Georgia State	36.2 (9)	217.6 (8)	237.9 (7)	455.5 (8)
Louisiana	19.7 (1)	174.1 (5)	197.7 (1)	371.8 (2)
South Alabama	30.7 (5)	192.2 (6)	216.6 (4)	408.8 (5)
Texas State	32.6 (6)	217.8 (9)	199.3 (2)	417.1 (6)
Troy	34.8 (8)	157.8 (3)	276.3 (10)	434.2 (7)
ULM	38.7 (10)	252.7 (10)	230.8 (6)	483.5 (10

Kennedy: AJ Henderson/Georgia Southern Athletics; Marable: Coastal Carolina Athletics; Jolly: App State Athletics; Lewis: Louisiana Athletics

ALL-SUN BELT TEAM

First-Team Offense

QB	**Zac Thomas**	6-1	210	Sr.	Appalachian State
RB	**Elijah Mitchell**	5-11	217	Sr.	Louisiana
RB	**Josh Johnson**	5-9	215	Sr.	ULM
AP	**CJ Marable**	5-10	190	Sr.	Coastal Carolina
WR	**Kaylon Geiger**	5-10	170	Sr.	Troy
WR	**Jonathan Adams Jr.**	6-3	220	Sr.	Arkansas State
TE	**Josh Pederson**	6-5	232	Sr.	ULM
C	**Noah Hannon**	6-1	265	Sr.	Appalachian State
OL	**Cooper Hodges**	6-4	295	So.	Appalachian State
OL	**Shamarious Gilmore**	6-3	295	Sr.	Georgia State
OL	**Baer Hunter**	6-2	285	Sr.	Appalachian State
OL	**Max Mitchell**	6-6	300	Jr.	Louisiana

CJ Marable

Shaun Jolly

First-Team Defense

DL	**Demetrius Taylor**	6-1	275	Sr.	Appalachian State
DL	**Tarron Jackson**	6-2	270	Sr.	Coastal Carolina
DL	**Raymond Johnson III**	6-3	260	Sr.	Georgia Southern
DL	**Will Choloh**	6-0	289	Jr.	Troy
LB	**Carlton Martial**	5-10	216	Jr.	Troy
LB	**D'Marco Jackson**	6-1	220	Jr.	Appalachian State
LB	**Joe Dillon**	6-3	218	Sr.	Louisiana
CB	**Corey Straughter**	5-10	180	Sr.	ULM
CB	**Shaun Jolly**	5-9	175	Jr.	Appalachian State
S	**Kenderick Duncan Jr.**	6-3	225	Jr.	Georgia Southern
S	**Dell Pettus**	5-11	185	So.	Troy

First-Team Specialists

K	**Blake Grupe**	5-8	150	Jr.	Arkansas State
P	**Rhys Byrns**	6-0	182	Jr.	Louisiana
KR	**Reggie Todd**	6-5	200	Sr.	Troy
PR	**Eric Garror**	5-9	180	Jr.	Louisiana

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	**Levi Lewis**	5-10	190	Sr.	Louisiana
RB	**Trey Ragas**	5-10	218	Sr.	Louisiana
RB	**Marcus Williams Jr.**	5-10	205	Sr.	Appalachian State
AP	**Wesley Kennedy III**	5-10	180	Sr.	Georgia Southern
WR	**Corey Sutton**	6-3	200	Sr.	Appalachian State
WR	**Thomas Hennigan**	6-1	205	Sr.	Appalachian State
TE	**Isaiah Likely**	6-4	245	Jr.	Coastal Carolina
C	**Jacob Still**	6-1	296	Sr.	Arkansas State
OL	**Jarrett Horst**	6-6	304	Jr.	Arkansas State
OL	**Ryan Neuzil**	6-3	285	Sr.	Appalachian State
OL	**Austin Stidham**	6-5	295	Jr.	Troy
OL	**Trey Carter**	6-1	300	Sr.	Coastal Carolina

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	**C.J. Brewer**	6-2	280	Sr.	Coastal Carolina
DL	**Dontae Wilson**	6-0	275	Sr.	Georgia State
DL	**Zi'Yon Hill**	6-1	279	Jr.	Louisiana
DL	**Forrest Merrill**	6-1	338	Sr.	Arkansas State
LB	**Teddy Gallagher**	6-1	240	Sr.	Coastal Carolina
LB	**Rashad Byrd**	6-0	230	Sr.	Georgia Southern
LB	**Caleb Bonner**	6-1	224	Sr.	Arkansas State
CB	**Jarron Morris**	5-9	158	Jr.	Texas State
CB	**Shemar Jean-Charles**	5-11	180	Sr.	Appalachian State
S	**Antonio Fletcher**	6-0	187	Jr.	Arkansas State
S	**Percy Butler**	6-0	190	Jr.	Louisiana

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	**Massimo Biscardi**	5-11	200	Jr.	Coastal Carolina
P	**Jared Porter**	5-11	175	Jr.	ULM
KR	**Jalen Virgil**	6-1	210	Sr.	Appalachian State
PR	**Thomas Hennigan**	6-1	205	Sr.	Appalachian State

Levi Lewis
Louisiana

Marcel Murray
Arkansas State

Riley Cole
South Alabama

Trajan Stephens-McQueen
Georgia State

THIRD-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	**Logan Bonner**	6-1	220	Jr.	Arkansas State
RB	**Marcel Murray**	5-11	197	Jr.	Arkansas State
RB	**B.J. Smith**	5-9	203	Sr.	Troy
AP	**Kawaan Baker**	6-1	210	Jr.	South Alabama
WR	**Cornelius McCoy**	5-11	185	Jr.	Georgia State
WR	**Reggie Todd**	6-5	200	Sr.	Troy
TE	**Roger Carter**	6-2	250	Sr.	Georgia State
C	**Malik Sumter**	6-1	295	Jr.	Georgia State
OL	**Jacob Shoemaker**	6-4	325	Jr.	South Alabama
OL	**T.J. Fiailoa**	6-4	299	Sr.	ULM
OL	**O'Cyrus Torrence**	6-5	342	So.	Louisiana
OL	**Andre Harris Jr.**	6-5	332	Jr.	Arkansas State

THIRD-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	**Kerry Starks**	6-2	235	Sr.	ULM
DL	**Caeveon Patton**	6-2	285	Sr.	Texas State
DL	**Chauncey Manac**	6-3	252	Sr.	Louisiana
DL	**Hardrick Willis**	6-3	244	Jr.	Georgia State
LB	**Riley Cole**	6-3	230	Jr.	South Alabama
LB	**Randy Wade Jr.**	6-2	270	Sr.	Georgia Southern
LB	**Trajan Stephens-McQueen**	6-1	230	Sr.	Georgia State
CB	**Terence Dunlap**	5-11	184	Jr.	Troy
CB	**Eric Garror**	5-9	180	Jr.	Louisiana
S	**TJ Harris**	6-1	188	Jr.	Troy
S	**Keith Gallmon**	5-9	210	So.	South Alabama

THIRD-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	**Noel Ruiz**	5-11	187	Sr.	Georgia State
P	**Xavier Subotsch**	6-1	195	Sr.	Appalachian State
KR	**Wesley Kennedy III**	5-10	180	Sr.	Georgia Southern
PR	**Wesley Kennedy III**	5-10	180	Sr.	Georgia Southern

Murray: Arkansas State Athletics; Cole: Scott Donaldson/South Alabama Strategic Communications; TSM: Georgia State Athletics

APPALACHIAN STATE Mountaineers

National Forecast: **42** · Sun Belt East Prediction: **1** · Projected Record: **9-4, 7-1 Sun Belt**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Morgan State
Sept.	11	at Wake Forest
Sept.	19	at Wisconsin
Sept.	26	Massachusetts
Oct.	7	Louisiana
Oct.	14	at Georgia Southern
Oct.	24	Arkansas State
Oct.	31	at ULM
Nov.	7	at Texas State
Nov.	14	Georgia State
Nov.	21	at Coastal Carolina
Nov.	28	Troy

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 13-1, 7-1 SBC

Aug.	31	East Tenn. State	W	42-7
Sept.	7	Charlotte	W	56-41
Sept.	21	at North Carolina	W	34-31
Sept.	28	Coastal Carolina	W	56-37
Oct.	10	at Louisiana	W	17-7
Oct.	19	ULM	W	52-7
Oct.	26	at South Alabama	W	30-3
Oct.	31	Georgia Southern	L	21-24
Nov.	9	at South Carolina	W	20-15
Nov.	16	at Georgia State	W	56-27
Nov.	23	Texas State	W	35-13
Nov.	29	at Troy	W	48-13
Dec.	7	Louisiana #	W	45-38
Dec.	21	vs. UAB %	W	31-17

#SBC Championship %New Orleans Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Stan Ellis, WR, Gaffney, SC
2. Je'Mari Littlejohn, LB, Gaffney, SC
3. Tommy Wright, ATH, Decatur, GA
4. Nate Noel, RB, Miami, FL
5. Jamar Rucks, DE, Buford, GA
6. Mike Smith, S, Jacksonville, FL
7. Stephen Passeggiata, DE, West Palm Beach, FL
8. Ronald Clarke, ATH, Hoschton, GA
9. Kevon Haigler, LB, Hartsville, SC
10. Jalen McLeod, LB, Washington, DC

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SB	NATIONAL
Scoring	38.8 ppg	1	9
Rushing	231.4 ypg	4	16
Passing	201.7 ypg	6	93
Total	433.1 ypg	6	39
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SB**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	20.0 ppg	2	21
Rushing	129.4 ypg	1	29
Passing	206.7 ypg	3	35
Total	336.1 ypg	1	26
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SB**	**NATIONAL**
+15	+1.07	1	7

STAT CORNER

8

Appalachian State scored eight non-offensive TDs in 2019, which led the nation. Its six defensive TDs were tied for most in the country.

OFFENSE Since first-year head coach Shawn Clark led the App State offensive line in the mid-'90s, the Mountaineers have leaned on the run to fuel their success.

They'll certainly do that again this season, as Marcus Williams Jr., Daetrich Harrington and Camerun Peoples all have the skills to give the program its ninth straight season with a 1,000-yard rusher, but this App State team will be plenty effective in the air thanks to third-year starting quarterback Zac Thomas.

Thomas, who completed 62.7 percent of his attempts for 2,718 yards, 28 touchdowns and six interceptions in 2019, has an embarrassment of riches at his disposal, led by big-play receiver Corey Sutton (41 rec., 601 yards, seven TDs) and the sure-handed Thomas Hennigan (61 rec., 773 yards, six TDs).

A major reason for App State's success lies up front, where the offensive line has helped the Mountaineers average a national ranking of 13.6 in rushing and 11.8 in sacks allowed over the past five seasons.

Four starters are back in that group, including first-team All-Sun Belt center Noah Hannon and second-teamers Cooper Hodges and Baer Hunter.

DEFENSE After ranking 26th in total defense in 2019, the Mountaineers return several stars while also losing a few. First, the challenges: No matter how much talent is in the pipeline, there's going to be an adjustment period when a team loses five of its top six tacklers. It's even more magnified when that group includes linebacker Akeem Davis-Gaither and both starting safeties.

The good news? One-man wrecking crew Demetrius Taylor (seven sacks, eight QBHs, three FFs) is back to anchor a strong unit up front that also features George Blackstock and Caleb Spurlin, who are capable of causing their own havoc in the backfield.

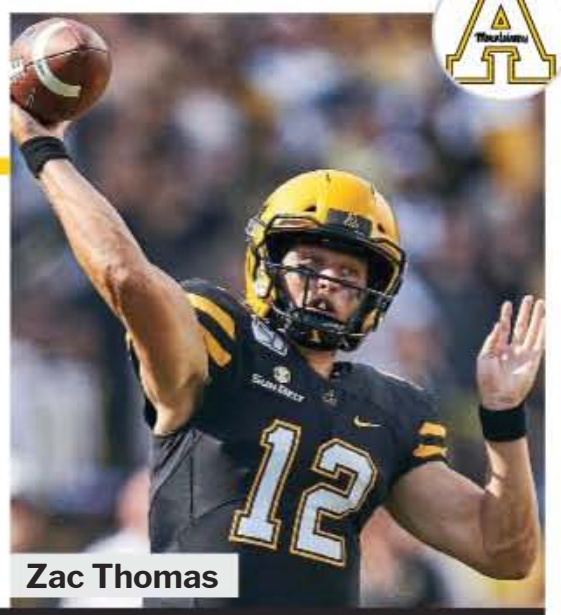
On the back end, first-team All-Sun Belt corner Shaun Jolly (five INTs, eight PBUs) can effectively take a receiver out of the gameplan, while Shemar Jean-Charles is rock-solid on the other side.

D'Marco Jackson (60 tackles, 3.0 sacks) is a sure thing at linebacker, while the rest of the group has talent but no superstars. Expect a deep rotation with contributors like Tim Frizzell and Nick Hampton.

SPECIALISTS The Mountaineers have continuity in the kicking game with senior punter Xavier Subotsch (42.7 yard average in 2019) and kicker Chandler Staton, who has made 31-of-40 field-goal attempts in his career. The speedy Jalen Virgil will get a shot as a kick returner and has a chance to make a difference, while Hennigan is always good for positive yardage as a punt returner.

FINAL ANALYSIS The faces change, but the product remains the same: App State pounds the run with its zone blocking scheme, the defense locks opponents up when it matters and the Mountaineers win championships. This year should be no different for Clark — the program's third coach in three seasons — whose hire injected even more energy into a passionate fan base.

Clark will have a chance to make an immediate statement with road games at Wake Forest and Wisconsin, giving the Mountaineers an opportunity to get on the national radar. If the defense can quickly get up to speed, the Mountaineers have a chance to battle for the Group of 5's New Year's Six bowl bid.



Zac Thomas

"Most of their personnel is back, so the real question here is whether or not the new staff can handle a quick transition. My guess is they will."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (9)				
WR	**2**	**Corey Sutton (Sr.)**	11	Jalen Virgil (Sr.)
WR	**5**	**Thomas Hennigan (Sr.)**	16	Christian Wells (Fr.)
WR	14	Malik Williams (Sr.)	17	Dashaun Davis (Fr.)
LT	73	Cole Garrison (Sr.)	74	Anderson Hardy (So.)
LG	**58**	**Ryan Neuzil (Sr.)**	75	Damion Daley (So.)
C	**60**	**Noah Hannon (Sr.)**	66	Luke Smith (Fr.)
RG	**51**	**Baer Hunter (Sr.)**	78	Craig McFarland (Fr.)
RT	**70**	**Cooper Hodges (So.)**	54	Lyle Hiers (Fr.)
TE	**88**	**Henry Pearson (Jr.)**	18	Mike Evans (Sr.)
QB	**12**	**Zac Thomas (Sr.)**	7	Jacob Huesman (Sr.)
RB	**26**	**Marcus Williams Jr. (Sr.)**	4	Daetrich Harrington (Jr.)
DEFENSE (4)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	97	Caleb Spurlin (Sr.)	91	Tommy Dawkins (Sr.)
NT	95	George Blackstock (Jr.)	99	Jordon Earle (So.)
DE	**48**	**Demetrius Taylor (Sr.)**	90	Chris Willis (Sr.)
OLB	10	Tim Frizzell (Sr.)	31	Nick Hampton (So.)
MLB	52	D'Marco Jackson (Jr.)	14	T.D. Roof (Jr.)
MLB	**45**	**Trey Cobb (Jr.)**	40	Logan Doublin (Jr.)
OLB	29	Brendan Harrington (So.)	28	KeSean Brown (So.)
CB	**3**	**Shaun Jolly (Jr.)**	18	Milan Tucker (Fr.)
CB	**8**	**Shemar Jean-Charles (Sr.)**	12	Steven Jones (Jr.)
SS	21	Ryan Huff (Jr.)	25	Kaleb Dawson (So.)
FS	13	Kaiden Smith (Sr.)	26	Nicholas Ross (So.)
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	91	Chandler Staton (Sr.)	**KR** 11	Jalen Virgil (Sr.)
P	39	Xavier Subotsch (Sr.)	**PR** 5	Thomas Hennigan (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Zac Thomas, 359-225-2,718-6, 28 TDs
Rushing: Marcus Williams Jr., 113 att., 652 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Thomas Hennigan, 61 rec., 773 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: D'Marco Jackson, 60
Sacks: Demetrius Taylor, 7.0
Interceptions: Shaun Jolly, 5

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Shawn Clark
Record at School: 1-0 (interim coach in 2019)
Career Record: 1-0 (interim coach in 2019)
Offensive Coordinator: Tony Petersen
Defensive Coordinator: Dale Jones
Boone, NC • Kidd Brewer Stadium (30,000)

App State Athletics

COASTAL CAROLINA Chanticleers

National Forecast: **115** · Sun Belt East Prediction: **5** · Projected Record: **4-8, 3-5 Sun Belt**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at South Carolina
Sept.	12	at Eastern Michigan
Sept.	19	Duquesne
Sept.	26	Kansas
Oct.	3	Arkansas State
Oct.	17	at Louisiana
Oct.	24	Georgia Southern
Oct.	29	at Georgia State
Nov.	7	South Alabama
Nov.	14	at Troy
Nov.	21	Appalachian State
Nov.	28	at Texas State

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 5-7, 2-6 SBC

Aug.	31	Eastern Michigan	L	23-30
Sept.	7	at Kansas	W	12-7
Sept.	14	Norfolk State	W	46-7
Sept.	21	at Massachusetts	W	62-28
Sept.	28	at Appalachian State	L	37-56
Oct.	12	Georgia State	L	21-31
Oct.	19	at Ga. Southern (ot)	L	27-30
Nov.	2	Troy	W	36-35
Nov.	7	Louisiana	L	7-48
Nov.	16	at Arkansas State	L	27-28
Nov.	23	at ULM	L	42-45
Nov.	30	Texas State	W	24-21

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Shon Brown, LB, Clover, SC
2. Travis Geiger, DT, Columbus, OH*
3. CJ Beasley, RB, Norfolk, VA
4. Willie Lampkin, DT, Lakeland, FL
5. Rayquan Jones, DT, Rome, GA
6. Braydon Bennett, ATH, Greenville, SC
7. Charles Steele, LB, Suwanee, GA
8. Mason Shelton, LB, Maryville, TN
9. Aaron Diggs, S, Auburn, AL
10. Isaiah Connelly, RB, Orlando, FL

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SB	NATIONAL
Scoring	30.3 ppg	7	55
Rushing	195.5 ypg	6	34
Passing	198.3 ypg	7	97
Total	393.8 ypg	7	74
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SB**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	30.5 ppg	4	85
Rushing	160.1 ypg	4	70
Passing	223.5 ypg	5	61
Total	383.6 ypg	4	62
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SB**	**NATIONAL**
0	0.00	5	61

STAT CORNER

79.3%

Coastal Carolina converted 23-of-29 fourth-down attempts. That 79.3 percent conversion rate was second best in both the Sun Belt and FBS to Appalachian State (81.3).

OFFENSE Jamey Chadwell enters his second consecutive season as head coach and fourth running his spread option offense at CCU, and he has a pair of quarterbacks with two years of significant experience. Junior Fred Payton is the presumptive starter after completing 63.6 percent of his passes for 1,421 yards and 12 touchdowns despite missing two games due to injury. Bryce Carpenter will push Payton after starting six games in 2019.

Do-it-all senior running back CJ Marable will be heavily featured in the offense after rushing for 1,085 yards on an average of 5.3 yards per carry and 11 touchdowns in 2019, while also finishing second on the team in catches with 38 for 295 yards and three TDs.

He'll be running behind an experienced offensive line that could be the strength of the offense with four returning starters. Senior guards Trey Carter and Jack Franklin, who each top 300 pounds, and senior tackle Steven Bedosky, who is returning from injury, have a combined 78 starts.

Junior Jaivon Heiligh returns after leading the team with 46 receptions for 497 yards and can win one-on-one battles, and junior tight end Isaiah Likely is a talented weapon who had five TDs among his 32 receptions in 2019.

DEFENSE The Coastal defense improved under first-year coordinator Chad Staggs in 2019 despite being decimated by injuries. The Chants get some of those injured players back, but they struggled to cover wide receivers last year and could again this season, as junior safety Alex Spillum is the lone returning starter in the secondary. Opponents completed 70 percent of their passes last season.

The defense has some playmakers, led by senior inside linebackers Teddy Gallagher, who led the team in tackles in 2019, and Silas Kelly, who was expected to lead the defense before suffering a season-ending knee injury in Week 2. Senior defensive end Tarron Jackson was a first-team All-Sun Belt selection last season after recording school records with 10 sacks and 10 QB hurries, as well as 13 tackles for a loss among his 60 total tackles. Senior defensive linemen Jonathan Clayton and C.J. Brewer have 30 combined starts despite Clayton missing much of the 2019 season due to an injury, so the Chants have an experienced front and may be strong against the run.

SPECIALISTS Junior Massimo Biscardi wasn't quite as consistent as a sophomore as he was as a freshman, but he was still dependable, hitting 15-of-20 field-goal attempts including a school record-tying 53-yarder. Junior punter Myles Prosser averaged less than 40 yards per punt, but he had just one touchback compared to 14 inside the opponents' 20 and 12 fair catches. Heiligh is slated to return punts, and junior college transfer Fred Jackson is expected to return kickoffs.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Chants earned their first victory over a Power 5 conference team in 2019 with a win at Kansas, but they lost three of their last four games to finish 5–7 overall and 2–6 in the Sun Belt for the second consecutive season. The program is still catching up to its conference rivals in terms of size, speed and talent level entering its fourth season with an FBS schedule, so a .500 record in the conference would have to be considered a big step forward.

CJ Marable

"It's a work in progress for Jamey (Chadwell). They're still at a talent disadvantage, and I don't think it's fixed this season. This is a long-term project for sure."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)				
WR	84	Kameron Brown (Sr.)	16	Aaron Bedgood (So.)
WR	**6**	**Jaivon Heiligh (Jr.)**	25	Fred Jackson (Jr.)
LT	76	Kameren Stewart (So.)	71	Isaac Owusu-Appiah (Fr.)
LG	**74**	**Jack Franklin (Sr.)**	77	Seth Harrell (Jr.)
C	**51**	**Sam Thompson (Sr.)**	66	Will McDonald (Fr.)
RG	**63**	**Trey Carter (Sr.)**	77	Seth Harrell (Jr.)
RT	**79**	**Steven Bedosky (Sr.)**	72	Antwine Loper (Jr.)
TE	4	Isaiah Likely (Jr.)	87	Michael McFarlane (Jr.)
QB	9	Fred Payton (Jr.)	**12**	**Bryce Carpenter (Jr.)**
RB	**1**	**CJ Marable (Sr.)**	23	Reese White (So.)
RB	5	Shermari Jones (Jr.)	31	Baden Pinson (Jr.)

DEFENSE (6)				Returning Starters in Bold
DE	**9**	**Tarron Jackson (Sr.)**	48	Davon Bomar (Fr.)
NT	99	Jonathan Clayton (Sr.)	96	Kennedy Roberts (Fr.)
DT	**52**	**C.J. Brewer (Sr.)**	31	Wilt Gabe II (So.)
OLB	**41**	**Myles Olufemi (Sr.)**	45	Chris Evans (Jr.)
MLB	**34**	**Teddy Gallagher (Sr.)**	21	JT Killen (Fr.)
MLB	**29**	**Silas Kelly (Sr.)**	47	Jamar Darboe (So.)
OLB	18	Tyriq Goodman (So.)	43	Enock Makonzo (Jr.)
CB	7	D'Jordan Strong (Jr.)	6	Manny Stokes Jr. (Fr.)
CB	16	Jordan Morris (So.)	23	Derick Bush (Jr.)
SS	26	Brayden Matts (Jr.)	11	Kameron Burton (Jr.)
FS	**10**	**Alex Spillum (Jr.)**	27	Mateo Sudipo (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	29	Massimo Biscardi (Jr.)	**KR**	25	Fred Jackson (Jr.)
P	37	Myles Prosser (Jr.)	**PR**	6	Jaivon Heiligh (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Fred Payton, 187-119-1,421-7, 12 TDs
Rushing: CJ Marable, 204 att., 1,085 yds., 11 TDs
Receiving: Jaivon Heiligh, 46 rec., 497 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Teddy Gallagher, 77
Sacks: Tarron Jackson, 10.0
Interceptions: Kameron Burton, 2

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Jamey Chadwell
Record at School: 8-16 (2 years)
Career Record: 68-51 (10 years)
Offensive Coordinators: Newland Isaac, Willy Korn
Defensive Coordinator: Chad Staggs
Conway, SC • Brooks Stadium (20,000)

Coastal Carolina Athletics

GEORGIA SOUTHERN Eagles

National Forecast: **95** · Sun Belt East Prediction: **2** · Projected Record: **6-6, 5-3 Sun Belt**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at Boise State
Sept.	12	Campbell
Sept.	19	Florida Atlantic
Sept.	26	at Louisiana
Oct.	3	at ULM
Oct.	14	Appalachian State
Oct.	24	at Coastal Carolina
Oct.	31	South Alabama
Nov.	7	Troy
Nov.	14	Texas State
Nov.	21	at Ole Miss
Nov.	28	at Georgia State

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 7-6, 5-3 SBC

Aug.	31	at LSU	L	3-55
Sept.	7	Maine	W	26-18
Sept.	14	at Minnesota	L	32-35
Sept.	28	Louisiana	L	24-37
Oct.	3	at South Alabama (ot)	W	20-17
Oct.	19	Coastal Carolina (ot)	W	30-27
Oct.	26	New Mexico State	W	41-7
Oct.	31	at Appalachian State	W	24-21
Nov.	9	at Troy	L	28-49
Nov.	16	ULM	W	51-29
Nov.	23	at Arkansas State	L	33-38
Nov.	30	Georgia State	W	38-10
Dec.	21	vs. Liberty #	L	16-23

#AutoNation Cure Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Sam Kenerson, ATH, Baton Rouge, LA
2. Jordan Mitchell, DE, Tyrone, GA
3. Chalon Howard, S, Madison, FL
4. Jalen White, RB, Daleville, AL
5. Tyler Bride, ATH, Norcross, GA
6. Tony Dinkins-McCall, RB, Sumter, SC
7. Rasheed Miller, OT, Lake Wales, FL
8. Teva Reynolds, C, Keaau, HI*
9. Brandon Wilson, DE, Beaufort, SC
10. Sean Pelkisson, DE, Downingtown, PA

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SB	NATIONAL
Scoring	28.2 ppg	8	70
Rushing	253.2 ypg	2	7
Passing	74.5 ypg	10	130
Total	327.7 ypg	9	118
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SB**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	28.2 ppg	3	70
Rushing	136.3 ypg	2	35
Passing	242.8 ypg	8	92
Total	379.2 ypg	3	55
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SB**	**NATIONAL**
+8	+0.62	2	19

STAT CORNER

13.76%

The Eagles' explosive play percentage — runs of 10 yards or more or passes of at least 30 yards — was 13.76, eighth highest in FBS.

OFFENSE After finishing No. 8 in the Sun Belt in scoring offense (28.2 ppg) and last in passing, coordinator Bob DeBesse is starting from scratch. The question is how much Georgia Southern's offensive identity can really evolve given the option-based offense and the limitations of quarterback Shai Werts, who enters his fourth year as a starter having never completed more than 85 passes in a season.

More stability on the offensive line could be a factor. The Eagles had to shuffle pieces last season due to injury, but getting senior Aaron Dowdell back at left guard after missing more than half the year with a foot issue should be a boost. Right tackle Brian Miller is also expected back after missing 2019 with a hip injury. The center position is a concern, with junior college transfer Teva Reynolds potentially taking over.

DeBesse has a solid group of running backs with Wesley Kennedy, who led the team with 1,199 all-purpose yards, and senior J.D. King, who made a big impact with 804 rushing yards and eight TDs after transferring from Oklahoma State. But getting more out of the receivers, none of whom had more than 20 catches last year, will be a challenge.

DEFENSE The foundation of the Eagles' success last season was stopping the run, and that shouldn't change as they bring back a lot of significant pieces. Though Ty Phillips is a major loss at nose tackle, C.J. Wright has played enough his first two years to step up as a capable starter, and Gavin Adcock, who battled some injuries last year, has shown potential.

Outside linebacker Randy Wade Jr. has been building toward a big senior season, and both Reynard Ellis and Rashad Byrd are highly disruptive, all-conference-caliber players inside. Those three combined for 31.5 tackles for a loss and eight sacks last season and should once again lead a unit that allowed just 136.3 rushing yards per game.

The problem again is figuring out how to improve against the pass. The Eagles will be young on the back end after losing cornerbacks Kindle Vildor and Jessie Liptrot as well as safety Donald Rutledge Jr. Darrell Baker, who has been a part-time starter, is likely to lock down one of the cornerback spots, but between redshirt freshman Derrick Canteen, true freshman Tyler Bride and juco transfer Braylon Peterson, someone else needs to step up.

SPECIALISTS Replacing Tyler Bass, who led the Sun Belt with 20 made field goals last season, is a top priority. Alex Raynor has the edge over Bryce Christensen. Punter Anthony Beck II is a field position weapon for the Eagles. He had a school-record 24 punts downed inside the 20 last season. Kennedy averaged 15.3 yards per punt return last season on six attempts and averaged 23.9 on kickoff returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS Nothing was easy for Georgia Southern last season. Even in scratching out a 7–6 record, the Eagles had four one-score wins, two of which came in overtime. Though head coach Chad Lunsford has talked about wanting more consistency, the reality is that it will be difficult to return to the top of the Sun Belt without a more dynamic offense that can threaten opponents vertically and improve on a paltry 30.7% conversion rate on third down. Unless that happens, the Eagles can win enough games to go to a bowl but once again won't have much margin for error.

Shai Werts

"One of the most impressive rosters in our league. They run the triple so well because of the caliber of athlete they recruit and develop in that region."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)				
WR	85	Emil Smith (Fr.)	20	Justin Harris (Fr.)
WR	16	Malik Murray (Sr.)	4	Khaleb Hood (So.)
WR	9	Darion Anderson (Sr.)	26	NaJee Thompson (Jr.)
LT	50	Caleb Kelly (Jr.)	55	Jawaski Webb (Sr.)
LG	51	Aaron Dowdell (Sr.)	77	Griffin Carder (Fr.)
C	63	Teva Reynolds (So.)	67	Alex Smith (Sr.)
RG	**74**	**Lawrence Edwards (Sr.)**	58	Aaron Pyron (Fr.)
RT	56	Brian Miller (Jr.)	**61**	**Drew Wilson (Sr.)**
TE	**48**	**Cam Brown (Sr.)**	41	Beau Johnson (Fr.)
QB	**1**	**Shai Werts (Sr.)**	17	Justin Tomlin (So.)
RB	**12**	**Wesley Kennedy III (Sr.)**	**15**	**J.D. King (Sr.)**

DEFENSE (6)				Returning Starters in Bold
DE	**92**	**Raymond Johnson III (Sr.)**	59	Elijah Campbell Jr. (So.)
NT	94	C.J. Wright (Jr.)	57	Gavin Adcock (Jr.)
DE	98	Dillon Springer (Jr.)	**49**	**Traver Vliem (Sr.)**
OLB	21	Zyon McGee (So.)	54	Benz Josue (Jr.)
MLB	**36**	**Reynard Ellis (Jr.)**	32	Chris Harris Jr. (Sr.)
MLB	**45**	**Rashad Byrd (Sr.)**	11	Todd Bradley (Sr.)
OLB	**47**	**Randy Wade Jr. (Sr.)**	33	Quin Williams (So.)
CB	31	Darrell Baker Jr. (Sr.)	13	Derrick Canteen (Fr.)
CB	38	Deonta Bembry (So.)	9	Braylon Peterson (Jr.)
SS	6	Java'n Singletary (So.)	17	Anthony Wilson (Fr.)
FS	**27**	**Kenderick Duncan Jr. (Jr.)**	22	Treun Pace (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	99	Alex Raynor (Fr.)	**KR**	12	Wesley Kennedy III (Sr.)
P	98	Anthony Beck II (So.)	**PR**	12	Wesley Kennedy III (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Shai Werts, 127-67-799-1, 9 TDs
Rushing: Wesley Kennedy III, 119 att., 824 yds., 11 TDs
Receiving: Malik Murray, 20 rec., 195 yds., 3 TD
Tackles: Reynard Ellis, 86
Sacks: Dillon Springer, Randy Wade Jr., 4.0
Interceptions: Rashad Byrd, Kenderick Duncan Jr., 2

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Chad Lunsford
Record at School: 19-13 (2+ years)
Career Record: 19-13 (2+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Bob DeBesse
Defensive Coordinator: Scot Sloan
Statesboro, GA • Paulson Stadium (25,000)

AJ Henderson/Georgia Southern Athletics

GEORGIA STATE Panthers

National Forecast: **112** · Sun Belt East Prediction: **4** · Projected Record: **4-8, 3-5 Sun Belt**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Murray State
Sept.	12	at Alabama
Sept.	19	Louisiana
Sept.	26	at Charlotte
Oct.	3	East Carolina
Oct.	15	at Arkansas State
Oct.	24	at Troy
Oct.	29	Coastal Carolina
Nov.	7	ULM
Nov.	14	at Appalachian State
Nov.	21	at South Alabama
Nov.	28	Georgia Southern

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 7-6, 4-4 SBC

Aug.	31	at Tennessee	W	38-30
Sept.	7	Furman	W	48-42
Sept.	14	at Western Michigan	L	10-57
Sept.	21	at Texas State (ot)	L	34-37
Oct.	5	Arkansas State	W	52-38
Oct.	12	at Coastal Carolina	W	31-21
Oct.	19	Army	W	28-21
Oct.	26	Troy	W	52-33
Nov.	9	at ULM	L	31-45
Nov.	16	Appalachian State	L	27-56
Nov.	23	South Alabama	W	28-15
Nov.	30	at Georgia Southern	L	10-38
Dec.	31	vs. Wyoming #	L	17-38

#Arizona Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jacob Freeman, WR, Hogansville, GA
2. Terrell Gordon, S, Phenix City, AL
3. Robert Lewis, WR, Covington, GA
4. Jeff Miller, OG, Seffner, FL
5. Chandler Durham, OT, McDonough, GA
6. Justin Abraham, LB, Hartsville, SC
7. Mikele Colasurdo, QB, Inman, SC
8. Tailique Williams, ATH, Hamilton, GA
9. Jalen Tate, S, Greenville, SC
10. Marcus Carroll, RB, Atlanta, GA

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SB	NATIONAL
Scoring	31.2 ppg	6	47
Rushing	241.6 ypg	3	12
Passing	198.2 ypg	8	98
Total	439.8 ypg	4	31
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SB**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	36.2 ppg	9	121
Rushing	217.6 ypg	8	119
Passing	237.9 ypg	7	84
Total	455.5 ypg	8	112
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SB**	**NATIONAL**
+1	+0.08	4	57

STAT CORNER

15.1%

Georgia State ball carriers were stuffed behind the line of scrimmage or for no gain just 15.1 percent of the time in 2019, the second-best rate in the Sun Belt.

OFFENSE Even in a year when Georgia State faces potential turbulence with an inexperienced quarterback, Shawn Elliott's long-term vision of the program has always been rooted in the offensive line. And Elliott, a former offensive line coach at Appalachian State and South Carolina, has compiled his best group yet.

Elliott has worked tirelessly to increase the scholarship numbers, physical size and talent level up front, and this year, four of five starters return, providing a stable foundation for an offense that must regroup after the departure of two-year starting quarterback Dan Ellington. The Panthers, in fact, could conceivably have three all-conference linemen with center Malik Sumter, guard Shamarious Gilmore and 6'6", 330-pound tackle Travis Glover, who started every game as a freshmen and is poised to have a great career.

Still, the Panthers have a lot of built-in variables on offense. Destin Coates and Seth Paige have some experience at running back, but they'll be stepping into the shoes of Tra Barnett, who led the Sun Belt with 111.8 rushing yards per game. And while the receiving corps should be one of the team's strengths with Cornelius McCoy (70 catches, 757 yards) and Sam Pinckney (36 catches, 460 yards), along with a pair of tight ends in Roger Carter and Aubry Payne who combined for 41 catches and nine touchdowns, a full spring to evaluate the quarterback position would have been helpful. Cornelious Brown and Kierston Harvey only got a handful of snaps in 2019 as freshmen, and Jamil Muhammad redshirted last year.

DEFENSE More should be expected of defensive coordinator Nate Fuqua's group this year, which returns nine starters, including linebackers Trajan Stephens-McQueen (110 tackles) and Victor Heyward, who have been contributors for four years. End Hardrick Willis and NG Dontae Wilson were both honorable mention All-Sun Belt performers in 2019.

The back end of the Panthers' defense remains questionable. A group that allowed a league-worst 8.5 yards per passing attempt and 27 passing touchdowns will need more from two-year starting corners Quavian White and Jaylon Jones, as well as senior safety Cedric Stone, who moved into a starting role last season. Jalen Tate, an early enrollee, could find his way into the safety rotation early as the Panthers look to replace two-year starter Remy Lazarus.

SPECIALISTS There's no obvious replacement for Brandon Wright, who capably handled punting and placekicking duties last season. Michael Hayes was recruited to fill either or both of those roles and redshirted last season, but he seems likely to emerge as the punter. Georgia State added North Carolina A&T's Noel Ruiz as a graduate transfer in the spring after he made 23-of-27 field-goal attempts last season at the FCS level.

FINAL ANALYSIS Though it wasn't a straight upward trajectory for the Panthers last season after their monumental upset at Tennessee in Week One, the body of work under Elliott has been solid with two bowl games in three seasons. There's still plenty of rebuilding to do for a very young program, but the roster balance between underclassmen and veterans is the best it has been, and the skill positions are among the most talented in the league. The degree of difficulty in 2020 increases simply due to the schedule.

Cornelius McCoy

"A much-improved team and program. Offensively, they simplified their scheme and got better immediately. The Tennessee win was big for our conference."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)				
WR	**83**	**Cornelius McCoy (Jr.)**	2	Jamari Thrash (Fr.)
WR	**15**	**Sam Pinckney (So.)**	11	Cadarrius Thompson (So.)
WR	27	Terrance Dixon (Jr.)	**6**	**Jonathan Ifedi (Sr.)**
LT	77	Johnathan Bass (So.)	60	Ronald Folkes (Fr.)
LG	**75**	**Shamarious Gilmore (Sr.)**	79	Connor Robbins (Jr.)
C	**62**	**Malik Sumter (Jr.)**	65	Avery Reece (Fr.)
RG	**64**	**Pat Bartlett (Jr.)**	72	Luis Cristobal (Fr.)
RT	**73**	**Travis Glover (So.)**	74	Despelado Alexandre (So.)
TE	**45**	**Roger Carter (Sr.)**	88	Aubry Payne (Sr.)
QB	4	Cornelious Brown (Fr.)	7	Jamil Muhammad (Fr.)
RB	17	Destin Coates (Jr.)	28	Seth Paige (Jr.)
DEFENSE (9)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	50	T.J. Arnold (Sr.)	30	Javonte Lain (Sr.)
NG	**52**	**Dontae Wilson (Sr.)**	95	Tahji Gilbert (Sr.)
DE	**90**	**Hardrick Willis (Jr.)**	54	Tre Moore (So.)
OLB	**37**	**Victor Heyward (Sr.)**	10	Jacorey Crawford (Jr.)
MLB	38	Kyle Wright (So.)	40	Jordan Veneziale (So.)
MLB	**6**	**T. Stephens-McQueen (Sr.)**	32	Zach Dixon (So.)
OLB	**47**	**Jhi'Shawn Taylor (Jr.)**	33	T.J. Smith (So.)
CB	**20**	**Quavian White (Jr.)**	**12**	**Tyler Gore (Jr.)**
CB	**27**	**Jaylon Jones (Jr.)**	11	Evan Jones (Sr.)
S	3	Chris Bacon (Jr.)	22	Jalen Tate (Fr.)
S	**9**	**Cedric Stone (Sr.)**	29	Courtney Williams (So.)
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K		Noel Ruiz (Sr.)	**KR** 83	Cornelius McCoy (Jr.)
P	39	Michael Hayes (Fr.)	**PR** 20	Quavian White (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Cornelious Brown, 28-11-130-1, 0 TDs
Rushing: Destin Coates, 82 att., 546 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving: Cornelius McCoy, 70 rec., 757 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Trajan Stephens-McQueen, 110
Sacks: Hardrick Willis, 4.5
Interceptions: 2 tied with 2

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Shawn Elliott
Record at School: 16-21 (3 years)
Career Record: 17-26 (3+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Brad Glenn
Defensive Coordinator: Nate Fuqua
Atlanta, GA • Georgia State Stadium (24,333)

Dale Zanine/Georgia State Athletics

TROY Trojans

National Forecast: **111** · Sun Belt East Prediction: **3** · Projected Record: **5-7, 3-5 Sun Belt**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
Sept.	12	at Massachusetts
Sept.	19	NC State
Oct.	3	at South Alabama
Oct.	8	Texas State
Oct.	17	ULM
Oct.	24	Georgia State
Oct.	31	at Arkansas State
Nov.	7	at Georgia Southern
Nov.	14	Coastal Carolina
Nov.	21	at Tennessee
Nov.	28	at Appalachian State

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 5-7, 3-5 SBC

Aug.	31	Campbell	W	43-14
Sept.	14	Southern Miss	L	42-47
Sept.	21	at Akron	W	35-7
Sept.	28	Arkansas State	L	43-50
Oct.	5	at Missouri	L	10-42
Oct.	17	South Alabama	W	37-13
Oct.	26	at Georgia State	L	33-52
Nov.	2	at Coastal Carolina	L	35-36
Nov.	9	Georgia Southern	W	49-28
Nov.	16	at Texas State	W	63-27
Nov.	23	at Louisiana	L	3-53
Nov.	29	Appalachian State	L	13-48

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Toryque Bateman, OT, Gadsden, AL*
2. Kimani Vidal, RB, Marietta, GA
3. Kyle Toole, QB, Leesburg, GA
4. Luis Medina, DT, Summerville, GA
5. Deyunkrea Lewis, TE, Montgomery, AL
6. Gage Saint, OT, Town Creek, AL
7. Darrell Starling, ATH, Pelham, GA
8. Tez Johnson, WR, Pinson, AL
9. Marcus Rogers, WR, Smyrna, GA*
10. Josh Brown, CB, Valdosta, GA

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SB	NATIONAL
Scoring	33.8 ppg	3	25
Rushing	143.1 ypg	8	90
Passing	313.2 ypg	1	9
Total	456.3 ypg	3	18
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SB**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	34.8 ppg	8	116
Rushing	157.8 ypg	3	65
Passing	276.3 ypg	10	118
Total	434.2 ypg	7	99
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SB**	**NATIONAL**
-2	-0.17	7	83

STAT CORNER

7.61%

Of the 394 pass attempts Troy faced, 30 gained 30 yards or more, a rate of 7.61 percent that was last in the SBC and No. 127 in the country.

OFFENSE Quarterback is wide open following the graduation of All-Sun Belt pick Kaleb Barker, who led the league last year in passing yards (3,628) and touchdowns (a school-record 30). The competition is shaping up as a three-way race between Gunnar Watson, Jacob Free and Parker McNeil, a two-time junior college All-American who enrolled in January. At 6'5", 237 pounds, McNeil brings intriguing size, but he barely had the opportunity to get his foot in the door before spring practices were canceled.

Aside from Barker, virtually everyone who touched the ball in 2019 is back. The leading rusher, DK Billingsley, will yield carries to B.J. Smith, a 2018 All-SBC pick coming off a medical redshirt, and Charles Strong, a Texas A&M transfer. The wide receiver rotation returns intact, headlined by a trio of former juco transfers — Kaylon Geiger, Reggie Todd and Khalil McClain — who combined for 2,101 yards and 17 touchdowns in their first season on campus.

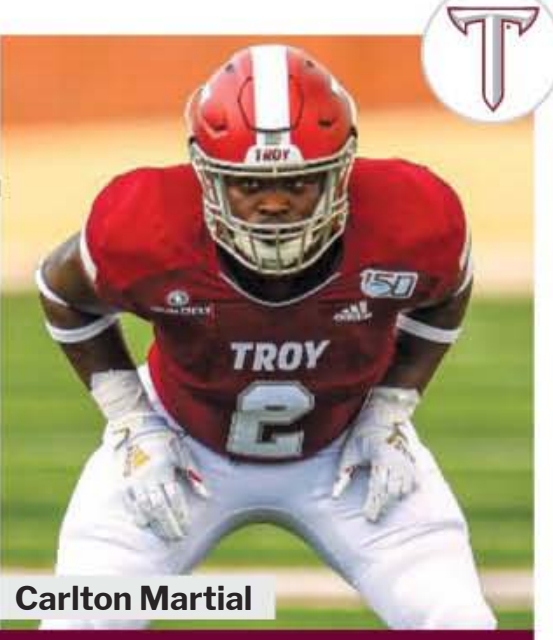
The Trojans are less settled up front with the departure of three multi-year starters on the O-line. At least one of those spots is likely to be filled via the juco pipeline, through which newcomers Toryque Bateman and Jordan Chapman have already arrived.

DEFENSE The defense took a huge step back in 2019, allowing a league-worst 38.4 points per game in Sun Belt play and a whopping 46.9 ppg in seven losses. Despite the plunge, coach Chip Lindsey opted to stick with his coordinator, Brandon Hall.

The most promising building block is junior linebacker Carlton Martial, a mighty mite-type who has emerged from undersized walk-on to all-conference mainstay with more than 200 tackles and 27 TFLs to his credit over the past two years. Junior defensive tackle Will Choloh Jr. is a solid anchor in the middle of the line. Terence Dunlap, a starter in 2018, is set to shore up one of the vacant cornerback slots after missing all of 2019 to injury. Power 5 transfers from Auburn (DE Richard Jibunor) and Iowa (LB Jayden McDonald) are eligible after a year on the bench. Meaningful improvement, though, will hinge on creating more big plays — Troy forced just 16 turnovers — and preventing them, after the Trojans finished 119th nationally in pass efficiency defense. More consistency in a well-seasoned secondary is crucial.

SPECIALISTS Junior Evan Legassey, who went 1-of-5 on field-goal attempts in 2017 as a true freshman and has been relegated to spot duty the past two years, will likely take over as punter and kicker. Return duties were largely split last year between Reggie Todd and Jabir Daughtry-Frye (each of whom has a kickoff return for TD in his career), with appearances by Kaylon Geiger as well.

FINAL ANALYSIS Lindsey's predecessor, Neal Brown, achieved a stellar 31–8 record from 2016-18, matching UCF for the best run of any Group of 5 program in that span, as well as a conference championship in 2017. And while no one expected Lindsey to achieve the same heights right out of the gate, a 5–7 record in Year 1 was still a letdown. There's a lot to like on offense, which is poised to ignite if the new quarterback can supply the spark. The defense … well, it can't be much worse. At this point, though, it will take a lot more than merely a step in the right direction to get the Trojans back to where they want to be.



Carlton Martial

"I think there's a big culture shift happening, so that might catch up to them this year. This could be a bad year if they can't find some leadership on that roster."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)				
WR	**2**	**Reggie Todd (Sr.)**	88	Demontrez Brown (So.)
WR	**1**	**Kaylon Geiger (Sr.)**	17	Sam Letton (Sr.)
WR	**13**	**Tray Eafford (Sr.)**	3	Bret Clark (Jr.)
WR	6	Khalil McClain (Sr.)	**83**	**Luke Whittemore (Jr.)**
LT	**79**	**Austin Stidham (Jr.)**	64	Gerald Bell Jr. (Sr.)
LG	55	Jake Andrews (So.)	71	Hamilton Hawthorne II (Fr.)
C	**65**	**Dylan Bradshaw (Sr.)**	78	Jordan Chapman (Jr.)
RG	67	Grant Betts (So.)	75	Kannon Biggs (Fr.)
RT	72	Toryque Bateman (Jr.)	52	Jaylen Childs (Fr.)
QB	8	Parker McNeil (Jr.)	18	Gunnar Watson (So.)
RB	**26**	**B.J. Smith (Sr.)**	**20**	**DK Billingsley (Jr.)**
DEFENSE (5)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	30	John Hines Jr. (Sr.)	47	DeVon Reaves (Fr.)
NT	**5**	**Will Choloh Jr. (Jr.)**	90	Elgin Griffin (Sr.)
DT	97	AJ Pierce (So.)	92	Desmond Barkley (Fr.)
DE	9	Richard Jibunor (So.)	49	Antonio Showers (Jr.)
MLB	**2**	**Carlton Martial (Jr.)**	10	Jayden McDonald (So.)
OLB	7	KJ Robertson (Jr.)	3	Justin Whisenhunt (Sr.)
CB	1	Terence Dunlap (Jr.)	18	Reddy Steward (So.)
CB	**11**	**O'shai Fletcher (So.)**	37	Christian Murphy (Fr.)
NB	**8**	**TJ Harris (Jr.)**	32	Shon Spralling (Jr.)
SS	22	Kyle Nixon (Sr.)	20	George Jackson (Jr.)
FS	**31**	**Dell Pettus (So.)**	4	Craig Slocum (Jr.)
SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	99	Evan Legassey (Jr.)	**KR** 2	Reggie Todd (Sr.)
P	99	Evan Legassey (Jr.)	**PR** 1	Kaylon Geiger (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Gunnar Watson, 22-13-89-0, 0 TDs
Rushing: DK Billingsley, 155 att., 901 yds., 10 TDs
Receiving: Kaylon Geiger, 77 rec., 873 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Carlton Martial, 127
Sacks: Will Choloh Jr., Carlton Martial, 4.0
Interceptions: Carlton Martial, 3

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Chip Lindsey
Record at School: 5-7 (1 year)
Career Record: 5-7 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Ryan Pugh
Defensive Coordinator: Brandon Hall
Troy, AL • Veterans Memorial Stadium (30,000)

Troy Athletics

ARKANSAS STATE Red Wolves

National Forecast: **88** · Sun Belt West Prediction: **2** · Projected Record: **7-5, 6-2 Sun Belt**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at Memphis
Sept.	12	Howard
Sept.	19	at Michigan
Sept.	26	Tulsa
Oct.	3	at Coastal Carolina
Oct.	15	Georgia State
Oct.	24	at Appalachian State
Oct.	31	Troy
Nov.	5	at Louisiana
Nov.	14	ULM
Nov.	21	at Texas State
Nov.	28	South Alabama

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5, 5-3 SBC

Aug.	31	SMU	L	30-37
Sept.	7	at UNLV	W	43-17
Sept.	14	at Georgia	L	0-55
Sept.	21	Southern Illinois	W	41-28
Sept.	28	at Troy	W	50-43
Oct.	5	at Georgia State	L	38-52
Oct.	17	Louisiana	L	20-37
Oct.	26	Texas State	W	38-14
Nov.	2	at ULM	W	48-41
Nov.	16	Coastal Carolina	W	28-27
Nov.	23	Georgia Southern	W	38-33
Nov.	29	at South Alabama	L	30-34
Dec.	21	vs. FIU #	W	34-26

#Camellia Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Corbet Mims, DE, Memphis, TN
2. Antwon Fegans, CB, Oxford, AL
3. Austin Woods, OT, Cleveland, OK
4. Brett Nezat, QB, Saraland, AL
5. Leroy Deshazor, ATH, Lakeland, FL*
6. Corey Rucker, WR, Yazoo City, MS
7. Kenneth Harris, CB, Columbia, LA
8. Javar Strong, S, Muscle Shoals, AL
9. Israel Whitmore, LB, Ackerman, MS
10. Deris Jackson, DT, Memphis, TN

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SB	NATIONAL
Scoring	33.7 ppg	4	26
Rushing	127.2 ypg	9	112
Passing	312.1 ypg	2	10
Total	439.3 ypg	5	33
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SB**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	34.2 ppg	7	114
Rushing	215.5 ypg	7	118
Passing	262.8 ypg	9	111
Total	478.3 ypg	9	124
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SB**	**NATIONAL**
-3	-0.23	8	86

STAT CORNER

9.5

Layne Hatcher threw for 294.6 yards per game and averaged 9.5 yards per attempt. Those figures ranked eighth and sixth, respectively, in FBS.

OFFENSE Coach Blake Anderson has to choose between two quarterbacks who shined last year. Junior Logan Bonner threw 10 touchdown passes in four games before a hand injury ended his season. In stepped Layne Hatcher, an Alabama transfer who passed for 2,946 yards and 27 touchdowns to earn Sun Belt Freshman of the Year honors.

Arkansas State still features big-play capability at receiver despite losing Sun Belt Player of the Year Omar Bayless and All-SBC wideout Kirk Merritt. Jonathan Adams Jr., a 6'3" senior, was also among the Sun Belt's top receivers (62 receptions, 851 yards). Dahu Green, a 6'5" senior who has battled injuries for two years, could post big numbers if healthy, and the Red Wolves add Roshauud Paul, a transfer from Texas A&M.

Junior Marcel Murray returns to lead a deep running back corps. A breakaway threat, Murray finished with 820 yards and six touchdowns last season despite missing two-plus games with an ankle injury.

The offensive line returns intact, led by senior center Jacob Still and junior left tackle Jarrett Horst. Four of the five linemen started all 13 games in 2019.

DEFENSE Wracked by injuries, the Red Wolves finished in the bottom 10 nationally in total defense, allowing 478.3 yards per game, but a mid-season scheme change to a three-man front helped the Red Wolves win five of their last six games.

Cornerback is the biggest concern after Jerry Jacobs' departure for Arkansas as a graduate transfer. Jarius Reimonenq started five games as a true freshman, and the Red Wolves expect help from UConn graduate transfer Tahj Herring-Wilson and junior college transfer Booker Ficklin.

The line took a hit after spring drills when All-Sun Belt end William Bradley-King left for Baylor as a graduate transfer. The Red Wolves have a run-stuffing interior lineman in Forrest Merrill, an All-Sun Belt player in 2018 who was limited to six games last season because of an arm injury, as well as solid depth.

Caleb Bonner is the top returning tackler after emerging last season at linebacker, another position where newcomers should play key roles. Junior free safety Antonio Fletcher anchors the secondary, and Anthony Switzer is expected to play a key role after injuries forced him into the lineup late last year.

SPECIALISTS ASU has a reliable option in All-Sun Belt kicker Blake Grupe, who was 19-of-22 on field-goal attempts last season. Ryan Hanson is the likely replacement for All-Sun Belt punter Cody Grace. On kickoff returns, the Red Wolves are likely to use wideout Jeff Foreman, who averaged 25.3 yards on 10 chances last season. Paul figures to return punts after averaging 10.4 yards at Texas A&M.

FINAL ANALYSIS Anderson has led Arkansas State to eight or more victories in four of his six seasons, including an 8–5 record in an emotionally exhausting 2019 season. The recipient of the FWAA Orange Bowl Courage Award, Anderson held the team together while dealing with personal tragedy — the death of his wife Wendy in August after a two-year battle with breast cancer.

The Red Wolves have significant concerns on defense and face trips to Michigan, Memphis, Appalachian State and Louisiana. The schedule may leave little margin for error, but Arkansas State has the firepower to aim for a 10th consecutive bowl trip.

Caleb Bonner

"With everything that happened off the field last year, everyone expects them to bounce back and compete for the league title very soon."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (9)				
WR	**9**	**Jonathan Adams Jr. (Sr.)**		Roshauud Paul (Jr.)
WR	4	Dahu Green (Sr.)	88	Jeff Foreman (So.)
WR	8	Bubba Ogbebor (Sr.)	82	Brandon Bowling (Sr.)
LT	**79**	**Jarrett Horst (Jr.)**	55	Troy Elliott (Sr.)
LG	**74**	**Andre Harris Jr. (Jr.)**		Kideam Diouf (Jr.)
C	**64**	**Jacob Still (Sr.)**	67	Ethan Miner (Fr.)
RG	**70**	**Ivory Scott (Sr.)**	78	Justin Dutton (Jr.)
RT	**73**	**Ernesto Ramirez (Jr.)**	72	Nour-Eddine Seidnaly (Sr.)
TE	**81**	**Javonis Isaac (Sr.)**	87	Reed Tyler (Jr.)
QB	12	Logan Bonner (Jr.)	**3**	**Layne Hatcher (So.)**
RB	**34**	**Marcel Murray (Jr.)**	18	Ryan Graham (Jr.)

DEFENSE (3)				Returning Starters in Bold
DE	36	Noel Iwuchukwu (Sr.)	95	Quinton Lee (Jr.)
NT	**92**	**Forrest Merrill (Sr.)**	97	Terry Hampton (Jr.)
DT	90	Tukua Ahoia (Sr.)	93	Vidal Scott (Jr.)
OLB	98	Jeffmario Brown (Sr.)	2	Kailon Davis (Sr.)
MLB	24	Fred Hervey (Jr.)	23	Dane Motley (Fr.)
OLB	**22**	**Caleb Bonner (Sr.)**	30	Derrick Bean (Jr.)
CB	6	Jarius Reimonenq (So.)		Booker Ficklin (Jr.)
CB		Tahj Herring-Wilson (Sr.)	1	Samy Johnson (So.)
NB	31	Anthony Switzer (So.)	12	CJ Harris (Fr.)
SS	20	Detravion Green (So.)	5	Amir Howard (Sr.)
FS	**14**	**Antonio Fletcher (Jr.)**	3	Antwon Fegans (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS				
K	25	Blake Grupe (Jr.)	**KR** 88	Jeff Foreman (So.)
P	48	Ryan Hanson (Fr.)	**PR**	Roshauud Paul (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Layne Hatcher, 310-204-2,946-10, 27 TDs
Rushing: Marcel Murray, 170 att., 820 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Jonathan Adams Jr., 62 rec., 851 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Caleb Bonner, 65
Sacks: Forrest Merrill, 3.5
Interceptions: Caleb Bonner, Jarius Reimonenq, 1

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Blake Anderson
Record at School: 47-30 (6 years)
Career Record: 47-30 (6 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Keith Heckendorf
Defensive Coordinator: David Duggan
Jonesboro, AR • Centennial Bank Stadium (30,964)

Nelson Chenault/Arkansas State Athletics

LOUISIANA Ragin' Cajuns

National Forecast: **41** · Sun Belt West Prediction: **1** · Projected Record: **11-2, 7-1 Sun Belt**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	McNeese
Sept.	12	Wyoming
Sept.	19	at Georgia State
Sept.	26	Georgia Southern
Oct.	7	at Appalachian State
Oct.	17	Coastal Carolina
Oct.	24	at New Mexico State
Oct.	31	at Texas State
Nov.	5	Arkansas State
Nov.	14	South Alabama
Nov.	21	at Missouri
Nov.	28	at ULM

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 11-3, 7-1 SBC

Aug.	31	vs. Miss. State #	L	28-38
Sept.	7	Liberty	W	35-14
Sept.	14	Texas Southern	W	77-6
Sept.	21	at Ohio	W	45-25
Sept.	28	at Ga. Southern	W	37-24
Oct.	10	Appalachian State	L	7-17
Oct.	17	at Arkansas State	W	37-20
Nov.	2	Texas State	W	31-3
Nov.	7	at Coastal Carolina	W	48-7
Nov.	16	at South Alabama	W	37-27
Nov.	23	Troy	W	53-3
Nov.	30	ULM	W	31-30
Dec.	7	at App. State %	L	38-45
Jan.	6	vs. Miami (Ohio) &	W	27-17

#New Orleans %SBC Championship &Lending Tree Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Reginald Johnson, WR, Baton Rouge, LA
2. Kyren Lacy, WR, Thibodaux, LA
3. Caleb Anderson, ATH, Jackson, LA
4. Cory Marshall, OG, Shreveport, LA
5. Andray Pope, ATH, Evergreen, AL
6. Courtline Flowers, CB, Dallas, TX
7. Emani Bailey, RB, Denton, TX
8. Trey Amos, ATH, New Iberia, LA
9. Ahmad Johnson, LB, Pelahatchie, MS
10. Dontae Fleming, WR, Reserve, LA

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SB	NATIONAL
Scoring	37.9 ppg	2	10
Rushing	257.4 ypg	1	6
Passing	236.7 ypg	5	62
Total	494.1 ypg	1	8
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SB**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	19.7 ppg	1	18
Rushing	174.1 ypg	5	82
Passing	197.7 ypg	1	21
Total	371.8 ypg	2	47
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SB**	**NATIONAL**
+5	+0.36	3	37

STAT CORNER

4.66%

The Ragin' Cajuns were stopped behind the line of scrimmage only 46 times in 987 offensive snaps in 2019 — an FBS-best 4.66 percent rate.

OFFENSE The Ragin' Cajuns achieved liftoff in 2019, finishing in the top 10 nationally in total offense, scoring offense and yards per play while shattering school records for all of the above. In 2020, Sun Belt defenses should buckle up for more of the same. At quarterback, hyper-efficient senior Levi Lewis returns after posting a ratio of 26 TDs to just four INTs in his first season as the full-time starter. At running back, seniors Trey Ragas and Elijah Mitchell have more career rushing yards (5,203) and touchdowns (61) to their credit than any other active duo in the country. All five O-line starters have at least one full season of starting under their belts, including 2019 injury casualties Ken Marks and Cole Prudhomme, both of whom were granted a sixth year of eligibility. Guard O'Cyrus Torrence, a 6'5", 342-pound Freshman All-American, has the makings of a future pro.

If there's a question mark, it's at wideout, where two-time All-Sun Belt pick Ja'Marcus Bradley will be sorely missed. Still, between sophomore Peter LeBlanc and seniors Jamal Bell, Jalen Williams and Calif Gossett — who collectively hauled in 98 receptions with six TDs in 2019 — there is no shortage of familiar options.

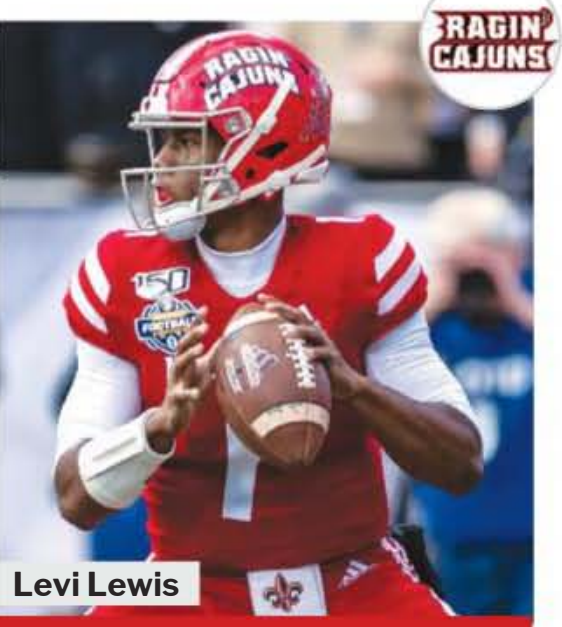
DEFENSE The defense made big strides last year, holding opponents to an SBC-best 19.7 points per game — down from the 34.2 ppg it allowed in head coach Billy Napier's first season. The architect, coordinator Ron Roberts, took the same position at Baylor. His replacement, Patrick Toney, was promoted from safeties coach with a mandate to keep things going in the right direction.

The front seven is a deep, veteran group anchored by junior Zi'Yon Hill, a second-team All-SBC pick on the interior line, and the interchangeable edge-rushing corps of Joe Dillon, Kris Moncrief, Andre Jones and Chauncey Manac, who together accounted for nearly half of the team's 66 tackles for a loss. FIU transfer Tayland Humphrey, the only former four-star recruit on the roster, will supply another massive body inside after sitting out 2019.

On the back end, all five projected starters played significantly last year for a secondary that ranked fifth nationally in passing TDs allowed (11) and 24th in pass efficiency D. If junior Asjlin Washington can fill the void left by Michael Jacquet III at corner, those marks should be well within reach again.

SPECIALISTS Kenneth Almendares and Grant Paulette were slated to compete for the placekicking job before spring practices were canceled; a third option, Indiana transfer Nate Snyder, is expected to join the mix by fall. Australian Rhys Byrns returns to punt after averaging 42.0 yards per attempt the past two years. UL will be looking for more pop in the return game.

FINAL ANALYSIS Last season was the best in Louisiana history: The Cajuns set a school record for wins, outscored opponents by 18 points per game and came within a TD in the Sun Belt Championship of claiming their first-ever outright conference title. The team's progress is so obvious that Napier, a former assistant to both Nick Saban and Dabo Swinney, reportedly told at least one Power 5 school "thanks but no thanks" last winter. The day that he says yes is coming. In the meantime, he may not get a better opportunity to finish the job in Lafayette than he has right now.



Levi Lewis

"It's Year Three for (Billy) Napier, and he's got a really good core group of personnel. They're a favorite to win the league. He's got his guys in place on offense."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)				
WR	**29**	**Peter LeBlanc (So.)**	11	Calif Gossett (Sr.)
WR	19	Jamal Bell (Sr.)	7	Brian Smith Jr. (Sr.)
WR	18	Jalen Williams (Sr.)	13	Brandon Legendre (Fr.)
LT	**67**	**Ken Marks (Sr.)**	65	Carlos Rubio (Jr.)
LG	61	Cole Prudhomme (Sr.)	70	Jax Harrington (Fr.)
C	**64**	**Shane Vallot (Jr.)**	53	AJ Gillie (Fr.)
RG	**58**	**O'Cyrus Torrence (So.)**	78	Luke Junkunc (So.)
RT	**74**	**Max Mitchell (Jr.)**	63	Spencer Gardner (Jr.)
TE	87	Neal Johnson (So.)	88	Johnny Lumpkin (Jr.)
QB	**1**	**Levi Lewis (Sr.)**	8	Jaiave Magalei (Jr.)
RB	**15**	**Elijah Mitchell (Sr.)**	9	Trey Ragas (Sr.)

DEFENSE (7)				Returning Starters in Bold
DE	17	Chauncey Manac (Sr.)	**50**	**Andre Jones (Jr.)**
NT	**4**	**Zi'Yon Hill (Jr.)**	97	Ja'Quane Nelson (Jr.)
DT	99	Tayland Humphrey (Sr.)	94	Dalvin Hutchinson (So.)
JACK	**6**	**Kris Moncrief (Jr.)**	3	Joe Dillon (Sr.)
MLB	**7**	**Ferrod Gardner (Sr.)**	43	Jourdan Quibodeaux (Jr.)
MLB	2	Lorenzo McCaskill (Jr.)	57	La'Kamion Franklin (Fr.)
CB	**19**	**Eric Garror (Jr.)**	39	Jayrin Wilson (Jr.)
CB	10	Asjlin Washington (Jr.)	18	Bobby Holmes (Fr.)
NB	36	Kam Pedescleaux (So.)	28	Ja'len Johnson (Jr.)
S	**16**	**Percy Butler (Jr.)**	27	Cameron Solomon (Sr.)
S	**24**	**Bralen Trahan (Jr.)**	30	Brandon Bishop (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS				
K		Nate Snyder (Sr.)	**KR** 21	Chris Smith (So.)
P	47	Rhys Byrns (Jr.)	**PR** 19	Eric Garror (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Levi Lewis, 378-243-3,050-4, 26 TDs
Rushing: Elijah Mitchell, 198 att., 1,147 yds., 16 TDs
Receiving: Jamal Bell, 34 rec., 445 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Lorenzo McCaskill, 57
Sacks: Joe Dillon, 7.0
Interceptions: Asjlin Washington, 3

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Billy Napier
Record at School: 18-10 (2 years)
Career Record: 18-10 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Rob Sale
Defensive Coordinator: Patrick Toney
Lafayette, LA • Cajun Field (41,426)

AJ Henderson/Sun Belt Conference

SOUTH ALABAMA Jaguars

National Forecast: **120** · Sun Belt West Prediction: **3** · Projected Record: **4-8, 3-5 Sun Belt**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at Southern Miss
Sept.	12	Grambling State
Sept.	19	at Florida
Sept.	26	UAB
Oct.	3	Troy
Oct.	17	Texas State
Oct.	22	ULM
Oct.	31	at Georgia Southern
Nov.	7	at Coastal Carolina
Nov.	14	at Louisiana
Nov.	21	Georgia State
Nov.	28	at Arkansas State

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 2-10, 1-7 SBC

Aug.	31	at Nebraska	L	21-35
Sept.	7	Jackson State	W	37-14
Sept.	14	Memphis	L	6-42
Sept.	21	at UAB	L	3-35
Sept.	28	at ULM	L	17-30
Oct.	3	Georgia Southern	L	17-20
Oct.	17	at Troy	L	13-37
Oct.	26	Appalachian State	L	3-30
Nov.	9	at Texas State	L	28-30
Nov.	16	Louisiana	L	27-37
Nov.	23	at Georgia State	L	15-28
Nov.	29	Arkansas State	W	34-30

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Keyshawn Woodyard, WR, Mobile, AL
2. Codey Martin, CB, Hoover, AL
3. Hayden Burton, OT, McComb, MS*
4. Jamie Sheriff, DE, Terry, MS*
5. Nae'Saan Dickerson, WR, Atlanta, GA
6. Caullin Lacy, ATH, Mobile, AL
7. Carlos Johnson, DT, Spanish Fort, AL
8. Elijah Gainey, QB, Flowery Branch, GA
9. Christian Wortham, WR, Grenada, MS
10. Zeke Chapman, DT, Poplarville, MS*

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SB	NATIONAL
Scoring	18.4 ppg	9	121
Rushing	171.4 ypg	7	54
Passing	158.8 ypg	9	119
Total	330.3 ypg	8	113
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SB**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	30.7 ppg	5	88
Rushing	192.2 ypg	6	98
Passing	216.6 ypg	4	48
Total	408.8 ypg	5	79
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SB**	**NATIONAL**
-6	-0.50	9	103

STAT CORNER

72.22%

The Jaguars struggled to score when they reached the red zone, as their 72.22 percent scoring rate ranked last in the Sun Belt and No. 122 in the country.

OFFENSE Better quarterback play is the key to turning around an ineffective offense that averaged only 18.4 points per game. Sophomore Desmond Trotter started the last four games of 2019 and played reasonably well. For the season, he passed for 820 yards, eight TDs and only two interceptions. Trotter must stretch the passing game with more deep throws, post a higher completion percentage and play consistently for a full season. Plan B is junior college All-American Chance Lovertich.

There's a wide range of possible outcomes on the offensive line. The unit struggled last season, but it returns four starters. The best of the bunch, Jacob Shoemaker, has moved from left tackle to right guard.

The backfield is jumbled. Four running backs from the 2018 signing class will compete to fill the big shoes of Tra Minter, who graduated after leading the Sun Belt in all-purpose yards last season. Carlos Davis (269 rushing yards) and Jared Wilson (176 rushing yards) may get the carries early in the season. But Damean Bivins, who redshirted after suffering an injury, is a wild card.

Kawaan Baker and Jalen Tolbert are a good duo at wide receiver, combining for 1,095 receiving yards and nine TDs last season. Tolbert caught four TD passes from Trotter in last season's win over Arkansas State in the finale. It may have been the first sign of a good rapport between the two.

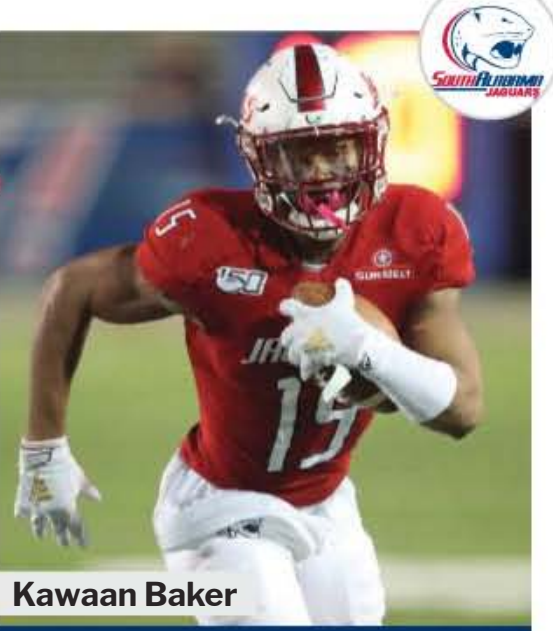
DEFENSE There's a major imbalance between a strong linebacking corps and a defensive line in rebuilding mode. Weak-side linebacker Nick Mobley led the team with 91 tackles. Riley Cole (59 tackles, nine for a loss) may be the team's best player. In the spring, he moved from Bandit to strong-side linebacker, where his physical style could fit well. A.J. DeShazor (61 tackles) is an undersized but speedy athlete at the Rover position. Chris Henderson (23 tackles) has flashes of talent and a 6'4", 245-pound frame, but he needs a breakout year. His backup, Alabama transfer Shawn Jennings, could be a factor if he can escape the injury bug.

There are three new starters on the defensive line, and none had as many as two sacks last season. There's no certain standout up front, but the unit must develop depth quickly.

Safeties Keith Gallmon and Tré Young and cornerback Devin Rockette return as key contributors to a solid pass defense. New starting cornerback Ryan Melton and a deeper rotation must show up to solidify the secondary and compensate for the uncertain defensive line.

SPECIALISTS Frankie Onate lost his placekicking job after making only 7-of-12 field goals last season and struggling from long range. Diego Guajardo, who made his only field-goal attempt and handled kickoff duties last season, provides a bigger leg. Jack Brooks is a steady returning starter at punter, but the Jaguars had one of the worst kick and punt coverage units in FBS last season. Tolbert is slated to handle returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS Head coach Steve Campbell's first two seasons didn't go well. The Jaguars went a combined 5–19 in their worst two-year stretch since they jumped to the FBS level in 2012. Mild improvement in Campbell's third season is plausible, but the team must seize early opportunities.



Kawaan Baker

"They struggled a lot last year, but this is a roster that's getting a little bit more talented year by year. You just have to think they can put it together eventually."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)				
WR	4	Jalen Wayne (Jr.)	7	Jamel Thomas (Sr.)
WR	**8**	**Jalen Tolbert (Jr.)**	19	Devin Voisin (So.)
WR	**15**	**Kawaan Baker (Sr.)**	12	Cade Sutherland (Jr.)
LT	74	Hayden Burton (Jr.)	75	Wyatt Green (So.)
LG	**73**	**Hadon Merchant (Jr.)**	58	Trey Simpson (So.)
C	**66**	**Brian Ankerson (Sr.)**	52	Jack Green (So.)
RG	**77**	**Jacob Shoemaker (Sr.)**	51	Tyler Jernigan (So.)
RT	**65**	**Josh McCulloch (So.)**	76	Conner Estes (Jr.)
TE	20	Brandon Crum (So.)	43	Nick Thompson (Sr.)
QB	11	Desmond Trotter (So.)		Chance Lovertich (Jr.)
RB	26	Carlos Davis (So.)	21	Jared Wilson (So.)

DEFENSE (5)				Returning Starters in Bold
DE	55	Maurice Strong Jr. (So.)	99	Jamie Sheriff (Jr.)
NT	48	Gi'Narious Johnson (Jr.)	96	Wy'Kevious Thomas (Fr.)
DE	12	Jeremiah Littles (Sr.)	30	Charles Coleman III (So.)
OLB	**4**	**Riley Cole (Sr.)**	14	Roy Yancey (Sr.)
MLB	7	Chris Henderson (Sr.)	24	Shawn Jennings (Sr.)
OLB	**46**	**Nick Mobley (Jr.)**	10	Quetin Wilfawn (Jr.)
ROV	**3**	**A.J. DeShazor (Jr.)**	8	Patrick Rosette (Sr.)
CB	17	Ryan Melton (So.)	2	Jaden Voisin (So.)
CB	**6**	**Devin Rockette (Sr.)**	1	Davyn Flenord (Jr.)
SS	**33**	**Keith Gallmon (Jr.)**	13	CJ Thompson (Jr.)
FS	5	Tré Young (Sr.)	27	Dewayne Betts Jr. (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	36	Diego Guajardo (So.)	**KR**	8	Jalen Tolbert (Jr.)
P	92	Jack Brooks (So.)	**PR**	8	Jalen Tolbert (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Desmond Trotter, 97-56-820-2, 8 TDs
Rushing: Carlos Davis, 61 att., 269 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Kawaan Baker, 35 rec., 574 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Nick Mobley, 91
Sacks: Riley Cole, 3.0
Interceptions: 4 tied with 1

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Steve Campbell
Record at School: 5-19 (2 years)
Career Record: 65-42 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Kenny Edenfield
Defensive Coordinator: Greg Stewart
Mobile, AL • Hancock Whitney Stadium (25,000)

Scott Donaldson/South Alabama Strategic Communications

TEXAS STATE Bobcats

National Forecast: **125** · Sun Belt West Prediction: **5** · Projected Record: **2-10, 1-7 Sun Belt**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	SMU
Sept.	12	UTSA
Sept.	19	at ULM
Sept.	26	Ohio
Oct.	3	at New Mexico State
Oct.	8	at Troy
Oct.	17	at South Alabama
Oct.	31	Louisiana
Nov.	7	Appalachian State
Nov.	14	at Georgia Southern
Nov.	21	Arkansas State
Nov.	28	Coastal Carolina

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 3-9, 2-6 SBC

Aug.	29	at Texas A&M	L	7-41
Sept.	7	Wyoming	L	14-23
Sept.	14	at SMU	L	17-47
Sept.	21	Georgia State (ot)	W	37-34
Sept.	28	Nicholls	W	24-3
Oct.	10	ULM	L	14-24
Oct.	26	at Arkansas State	L	14-38
Nov.	2	at Louisiana	L	3-31
Nov.	9	South Alabama	W	30-28
Nov.	16	Troy	L	27-63
Nov.	23	at Appalachian State	L	13-35
Nov.	30	at Coastal Carolina	L	21-24

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Aaron Reynolds, CB, Montgomery, AL*
2. Maureese Wren, LB, Mesquite, TX*
3. Drue Jackson, WR, Sachse, TX*
4. Zion Childress, WR, New Caney, TX
5. Derrick Ray Jr., DE, Rosenberg, TX*
6. Issiah Nixon, RB, Missouri City, TX
7. Jaycob Horn, WR, Tupelo, MS
8. Kevin Howard, WR, Gardendale, AL*
9. Alex Costilla, OT, San Marcos, TX*
10. Brock Sturges, RB, Allen, TX*

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SB	NATIONAL
Scoring	18.4 ppg	9	121
Rushing	76.8 ypg	10	127
Passing	241.1 ypg	4	58
Total	317.8 ypg	10	121
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SB**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	32.6 ppg	6	107
Rushing	217.8 ypg	9	120
Passing	199.3 ypg	2	25
Total	417.1 ypg	6	86
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SB**	**NATIONAL**
-9	-0.75	10	118

STAT CORNER

30.72

The Bobcats ranked last in the Sun Belt and No. 119 nationally with an average of 30.72 offensive snaps per touchdown last season.

OFFENSE After a disappointing first year of the Air Raid offense — just 18.4 points per game in 2019 — changes were made in the offseason, starting with the play-calling. Head coach Jake Spavital fired offensive coordinator and play-caller Bob Stitt after one season, replacing him with former Ole Miss receivers coach Jacob Peeler. Spavital plans to take over the play-calling duties himself for 2020.

The competition under center is between incumbent Tyler Vitt and Memphis transfer Brady McBride. Vitt has appeared in 18 games with 12 starts at Texas State the last two seasons, but he has only won one game, throwing 24 interceptions to 18 touchdowns. McBride — a redshirt freshman at Memphis in 2018 — sat out last season after transferring to Texas State in August. Both split time with the first unit in spring practice.

Whoever is under center will have an influx of new weapons and protection to help him. The Bobcats signed five offensive linemen, four receivers and two running backs for the class of 2020, with a handful of them being experienced transfers, both from junior colleges and four-year schools. Add that to the five returning starters, and the Texas State offense should have an improved look this season.

DEFENSE The one bright spot for the Bobcats last season was the defense, anchored by linebacker Bryan London II, the all-time leading tackler at Texas State. With London and most of the starters from the defense graduated, the Bobcats are left with a number of voids to fill.

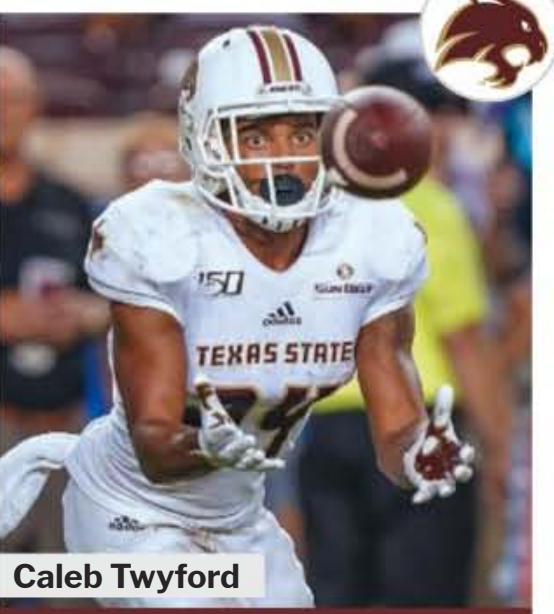
Running primarily a 3-3-5 defense, Texas State is returning starters on the defensive line and at both corner spots, so they focused on the vacancies at linebacker and safety in recruiting. The Bobcats signed five linebackers and three defensive backs, relying heavily on junior college transfers.

Defensive coordinator Zac Spavital had high praise in spring practice for London's replacement, linebacker Markeveon "Binky" Coleman. Coleman, a senior, has appeared in 30 career games with no starts, collecting 24 tackles.

Junior college transfer Maureese Wren might be the pass rusher the Bobcats have yearned for. At 6'4", the former Louisiana Tech receiver turned outside linebacker is up from 220 to 250 pounds. With safety Tory Spears (6'3"), Grid Isidore (6'1") and Wren, the Texas State defense will at least be bigger in 2020.

SPECIALISTS Freshman kicker Alan Orona took a redshirt last year but will get his chance in 2020. Australian punter Seamus O'Kelly returns after averaging 38.1 yards per punt. Safety DeJordan Mask and receiver Jah'Marae Sheread split time returning kickoffs last season — Mask had 11 returns for a 29.5-yard average, and Sheread had 16 for 22.1. Sheread was returning punts in spring practice.

FINAL ANALYSIS Jake Spavital is apparently comfortable enough as a head coach to return to his roots as a play-caller, and his success in the role will determine if he is truly the offensive savant that Texas State thought he was. With just five spring practices and an abundance of new faces, it's hard to discern where this team is. With a stable of new, handpicked weapons on both sides of the ball, the level of improvement will be determined by how long the offense can keep the defense off the field.



Caleb Twyford

"Most of that defense is turning over, so they're going to have to make a jump on offense this year. The personnel should fit better for what (Jake Spavital) likes to do."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (5)

WR	**3**	**Jeremiah Haydel (Sr.)**	82	Kevin Howard (Jr.)
WR	12	Javen Banks (Jr.)	18	Marcell Barbee (Jr.)
WR	1	Jah'Marae Sheread (Jr.)	9	Drue Jackson (Jr.)
LT	73	Dalton Cooper (Fr.)	76	Kylar Cooks (So.)
LG	53	Eddie Rivas (Jr.)	74	Russell Baker (Jr.)
C	**50**	**Reece Jordan (Sr.)**	62	Jacob Fryrear (Sr.)
RG	**71**	**Tate Heitmeier (Jr.)**	69	Tanner King (Jr.)
RT	79	Jaydan Smith (So.)	65	Kameron Jemison (Sr.)
TE	83	Micah Hilts (So.)	15	Blake Aragon (So.)
QB	2	Brady McBride (So.)	**11**	**Tyler Vitt (Jr.)**
RB	25	Brock Sturges (So.)	**24**	**Caleb Twyford (Sr.)**

DEFENSE (4) Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**95**	**Nico Ezidore (Jr.)**	94	Jaquel Pierce (Sr.)
NT	**88**	**Caeveon Patton (Sr.)**	91	Jordan Revels (So.)
DE	92	Devin Henderson (Fr.)	90	Jake Lynch (So.)
MLB	7	Markeveon Coleman (Sr.)	31	Isaiah Karriem (Jr.)
ILB	22	Kenny Haynes (Fr.)	26	Anthony Smith (Jr.)
OLB	9	Maureese Wren (Jr.)	8	Hal Vinson (Sr.)
CB	**15**	**Jarron Morris (Jr.)**	35	Ashton Johnson (So.)
CB	**20**	**Khambrail Winters (So.)**	3	Kordell Rodgers (Sr.)
NB	5	Kevin Anderson (So.)	2	Grid Isdore (Jr.)
SS	14	Tory Spears (So.)	6	Jared Hopper (Fr.)
FS	13	DeJordan Mask (So.)	10	Auston Deason (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	37	Alan Orona (Fr.)	**KR**	13	DeJordan Mask (So.)
P	39	Seamus O'Kelly (So.)	**PR**	1	Jah'Marae Sheread (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Tyler Vitt, 231-147-1,590-14, 11 TDs
Rushing: Caleb Twyford, 108 att., 488 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Javen Banks, 67 rec., 618 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Jarron Morris, 63
Sacks: Nico Ezidore, 1.0
Interceptions: Jarron Morris, 2

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Jake Spavital
Record at School: 3-9 (1 year)
Career Record: 3-9 (1 year)
Co-Offensive Coordinator: Jacob Peeler
Defensive Coordinators: Archie McDaniel, Zac Spavital
San Marcos, TX • Bobcat Stadium (30,000)

Daniel Dunn/Icon via AP

ULM Warhawks

National Forecast: **121** · Sun Belt West Prediction: **4** · Projected Record: **3-9, 2-6 Sun Belt**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	Cal Poly
Sept.	19	Texas State
Sept.	26	at Georgia
Oct.	3	Georgia Southern
Oct.	10	at Liberty
Oct.	17	at Troy
Oct.	22	at South Alabama
Oct.	31	Appalachian State
Nov.	7	at Georgia State
Nov.	14	at Arkansas State
Nov.	21	at Arkansas
Nov.	28	Louisiana

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 5-7, 4-4 SBC

Sept.	1	Grambling State	W	31-9
Sept.	7	at Florida State (ot)	L	44-45
Sept.	21	at Iowa State	L	20-72
Sept.	28	South Alabama	W	30-17
Oct.	5	Memphis	L	33-52
Oct.	10	at Texas State	W	24-14
Oct.	19	at Appalachian State	L	7-52
Nov.	2	Arkansas State	L	41-48
Nov.	9	Georgia State	W	45-31
Nov.	16	at Georgia Southern	L	29-51
Nov.	23	Coastal Carolina	W	45-42
Nov.	30	at Louisiana	L	30-31

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Vincent Hall, OG, Shreveport, LA
2. Marcus Moore, DT, The Colony, TX
3. Keydrain Calligan, CB, New Iberia, LA
4. Tre Odom, S, Lufkin, TX
5. Tavion Prather, DE, Oxford, MS
6. Zac Gulley, S, Newton, TX
7. Garrett Kahmann, QB, West Monroe, LA
8. Jahmeel Rice, WR, Copperas Cove, TX
9. Taylor Behl, LB, Georgetown, TX
10. D.J. Travis, CB, Poplarville, MS*

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	SB	NATIONAL
Scoring	31.6 ppg	5	45
Rushing	207.3 ypg	5	26
Passing	253.7 ypg	3	46
Total	460.9 ypg	2	17
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**SB**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	38.7 ppg	10	127
Rushing	252.7 ypg	10	128
Passing	230.8 ypg	6	73
Total	483.5 ypg	10	128
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**SB**	**NATIONAL**
0	0.00	5	61

STAT CORNER

13.99%

ULM surrendered an explosive play — a rushing play of 10 yards or more or a pass of 30 yards or longer — on 13.99 percent of its defensive snaps, the highest rate in the nation.

OFFENSE Head coach Matt Viator will take over play-calling duties. His top priority is naming a new quarterback after Caleb Evans' graduation as the program's No. 2 career passer. Sophomore Colby Suits may be the front-runner entering camp, but dual-threat junior college transfer Jeremy Hunt could close that gap.

Mobility could be a deciding factor in the quarterback race if the offensive line struggles to reload. The right side is in good shape as guard T.J. Fiailoa returns from a broken leg and tackle Samuel Williams is also back. Center and the left side will have new starters.

A pair of All-Sun Belt performers return in running back Josh Johnson and tight end Josh Pederson. Johnson rushed for 1,298 yards and 11 TDs with a 6.5 yards-per-carry average. Pederson grabbed 43 receptions for 567 yards and nine TDs, and he will provide a reliable target for the new quarterback.

The receiving corps may not have a dangerous No. 1 wideout, but there is potential for depth. Jonathan Hodoh (38 receptions, 453 yards) and Zach Jackson (30 receptions, 392 yards) are productive returnees.

DEFENSE ULM's defense can't get much worse. Last season, it ranked near the bottom of the nation in scoring defense (38.7 ppg), total defense (483.5 ypg) and rushing defense (252.7 ypg).

The pass defense is in better shape thanks to Corey Straughter, one of the best cover cornerbacks in the Sun Belt. In 2019, he had 15 passes defended, tops in the Sun Belt, and five interceptions, tied for the league lead. The other cornerback, Josh Newton, is also back. Safety Tyler Glass is the top returning tackler with 75 takedowns. Jabari Johnson, a 2018 starter, should return from a 2019 injury at weak safety. Keilos Swinney may be headed for a breakout year at Buck safety, a key position in defensive coordinator Mike Collins' 4-2-5 scheme. Kansas State transfer Logan Wilson could also play in that spot, if he's granted immediate eligibility.

The front seven returns starting defensive ends Kerry Starks and Ty Shelby, but there's uncertainty in the interior line and linebacking corps.

SPECIALISTS Jared Porter could handle punting and placekicking duties for a second season. He was among the Sun Belt's best punters with a 43.8-yard average, but he was less consistent as a kicker. Porter made 7-of-12 field goals, but only 4-of-9 from 30 yards and beyond. Jacob Meeks, who was 2-of-3 last season, is the other option. The return game needs improvement.

FINAL ANALYSIS Viator has kept ULM consistently competitive. He has posted a 4-4 Sun Belt record in three straight seasons. And last season, the Warhawks missed a last-second field goal in the finale that would've earned bowl eligibility for a second straight year.

There are tough SEC road trips to Georgia and Arkansas. A midseason game at Liberty could determine if ULM can squeeze out a 2–2 non-conference record. That would make bowl eligibility more attainable. Finding the right quarterback, developing the offensive line and making major defensive strides in stopping the run will be key. If all those boxes are checked, the Warhawks could approach a .500 record. If not, they are likely headed for a disappointing finish in the Sun Belt.

Josh Johnson

"Last year, they had a lot of play from seniors on both sides, so they're losing a lot of production. Traditionally that means they dip, because it's always a thin roster."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)				
WR	14	Perry Carter Jr. (Jr.)	2	Malik Jackson (So.)
WR	**18**	**Jonathan Hodoh (Sr.)**	10	Jahquan Bloomfield (So.)
WR	4	Brandius Batiste (Sr.)	**7**	**Zach Jackson (Jr.)**
LT	70	Blake Lodes (So.)	73	Chance Billington (So.)
LG	65	Dakota Torbert (Jr.)	75	John Bolding (So.)
C	51	Zach Breaux (So.)		Dillon Brooks (So.)
RG	**68**	**T.J. Fiailoa (Sr.)**	76	Conner Parsons (So.)
RT	**72**	**Samuel Williams (Sr.)**	59	Victor Cutler (So.)
TE	**86**	**Josh Pederson (Sr.)**	88	Tyler Lamm (Sr.)
QB	16	Colby Suits (So.)		Jeremy Hunt (Jr.)
RB	**8**	**Josh Johnson (Sr.)**	13	Isaiah Phillips (So.)
DEFENSE (8)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	**5**	**Kerry Starks (Sr.)**	45	Myles Cole (So.)
NT	93	Mason Husmann (Sr.)		Edward Haralson (Jr.)
DT	96	Dayonte Roberts (So.)	94	Seth Mason (So.)
DE	**44**	**Ty Shelby (Sr.)**	16	Ivin White Jr. (Sr.)
MLB	24	KeyShawn Johnson (So.)	**4**	**Rashaad Harding (Sr.)**
OLB	10	Traveion Webster (Sr.)	42	Hunter Smith (Jr.)
CB	**21**	**Corey Straughter (Sr.)**	3	Jordan Oliver (So.)
CB	**20**	**Josh Newton (So.)**		Kenderick Marbles (Jr.)
BUCK	**6**	**Keilos Swinney (Sr.)**		Logan Wilson (So.)
FS	**1**	**Tyler Glass (Sr.)**	28	Kevin Jones (So.)
WS	**15**	**Austin Hawley (Sr.)**	2	Jabari Johnson (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	37	Jared Porter (Jr.)	**KR**	14	Perry Carter Jr. (Jr.)
P	37	Jared Porter (Jr.)	**PR**	14	Perry Carter Jr. (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Colby Suits, 19-6-69-2, 0 TDs
Rushing: Josh Johnson, 201 att., 1,298 yds., 11 TDs
Receiving: Josh Pederson, 43 rec., 567 yds., 9 TD
Tackles: Tyler Glass, 76
Sacks: Kerry Starks, 5.0
Interceptions: Corey Straughter, 5

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Matt Viator
Record at School: 19-29 (4 years)
Career Record: 97-62 (14 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Eman Naghavi
Defensive Coordinator: Mike Collins
Monroe, LA • Malone Stadium (30,427)

ULM Athletics

BYU Cougars

National Forecast: **51** · Projected Record: **7-5**

Zach Wilson

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Kalani Sitake
Record at School: 27-25 (4 years)
Career Record: 27-25 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jeff Grimes
Defensive Coordinator: Ilaisa Tuiaki
Location: Provo, UT
Stadium: LaVell Edwards Stadium (63,470)

KEY COUGARS

ZACH WILSON, QB Returning starter missed four games but still threw for 2,382 yards and 11 touchdowns.

LOPINI KATOA, RB Cougars' second-leading rusher in 2019 with 358 yards and four touchdowns on 85 carries.

MATT BUSHMAN, TE Returns for his senior season hoping to improve his standing as one of the school's all-time best tight ends.

KEY LOSSES

ALEVA HIFO, WR Valuable all-purpose player caught 42 passes for 483 yards and three touchdowns in 2019 while also averaging 15.9 yards on punt returns.

MICAH SIMON, WR Led the team's wide receivers with 616 yards and provided tremendous leadership.

DAYAN GHANWOLOKU, DB Ball-hawking defensive back recorded 62 tackles, second on the team, and 4.5 tackles for a loss in 2019.

RISING STAR

DEVONTA'E HENRY-COLE, a fifth-year graduate transfer running back, was unhappy at Utah and made the decision in February to take his talents 45 miles south to the Utes' biggest rival. Run DHC, as he is called, is "power-packed," according to BYU offensive coordinator Jeff Grimes.

During the latter part of the 2019 season, after BYU had become bowl eligible, school officials rewarded head coach Kalani Sitake with a contract extension through the 2023 season. The Cougars promptly lost their final two games to teams they used to dominate when they were part of a conference — 13–3 to San Diego State and 38–34 to Hawaii in the SoFi Hawaii Bowl — and a lot of goodwill Sitake was seemingly re-establishing with BYU's large, but somewhat skeptical, national fan base went out the window.

It is under that cloud of discontent that the Cougars begin the fifth year of the Sitake era still looking to find their footing after Bronco Mendenhall's departure for Virginia in 2015. And the college football independent still has another rugged September schedule, with Utah, Michigan State, Arizona State and Minnesota lined up in the first month.

OFFENSE BYU's offense should continue to improve in 2020 with the return of quarterback Zach Wilson. The junior should benefit from a full offseason of workouts and conditioning, after missing the lead-up to last season recovering from shoulder surgery.

Despite missing four games in 2019 with a fractured thumb, Wilson threw for 2,382 yards and 11 touchdowns. Still, his starting job is in question because rising sophomores Jaren Hall and Baylor Romney performed well and won games in his absence, with Hall beating Utah State and Romney beating Boise State and Liberty.

The offense's prospects got a boost when three-year starting tight end Matt Bushman announced in December that he would be returning for his senior season rather than turn pro. Bushman has caught 125 passes for 1,719 yards and nine TDs in his career, and he is closing in on several school records for a tight end.

His return is big because BYU lost three standout receivers — Aleva Hifo, Talon Shumway and Micah Simon — to graduation and doesn't have much experience, or many playmakers, at the wideout positions. Juniors Gunner Romney, Dax Milne and Neil Pau'u, who sat out last season with legal issues, will try to fill the void. BYU is also hoping for big things from redshirt freshman Keanu Hill and prized recruit Kody Epps of Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana, Calif.

Every player who started on the offensive line in 2019 returns, most notably Outland Trophy candidate Brady Christensen and Rimington Trophy candidate James Empey. Those two have started the last 26 games together. Seniors Kieffer Longson and Tristen Hoge are multiple-year starters, and coaches believe sophomore right tackle Blake Freeland has NFL potential.

At running back, BYU snared Utah's graduating senior Devonta'e Henry-Cole out of the transfer portal after getting South Carolina's Ty'Son Williams in the summer of 2019. "Run DHC," as Henry-Cole is called, will join returning contributors Lopini Katoa, Jackson McChesney and converted linebacker Tyler Allgeier.

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3	at Utah
Sept.	12	Michigan State
Sept.	19	at Arizona State
Sept.	26	at Minnesota
Oct.	2	Utah State
Oct.	10	Missouri
Oct.	16	Houston
Oct.	24	vs. Northern Illinois #
Nov.	6	at Boise State
Nov.	14	San Diego State
Nov.	21	North Alabama
Nov.	28	at Stanford

#Bridgeview, IL

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 7-6

Aug.	29	Utah		L	12-30
Sept.	7	at Tennessee	(ot)	W	29-26
Sept.	14	USC	(ot)	W	30-27
Sept.	21	Washington		L	19-45
Sept.	28	at Toledo		L	21-28
Oct.	12	at USF		L	23-27
Oct.	19	Boise State		W	28-25
Nov.	2	at Utah State		W	42-14
Nov.	9	Liberty		W	31-24
Nov.	16	Idaho State		W	42-10
Nov.	23	at Massachusetts		W	56-24
Nov.	30	at San Diego State		L	3-13
Dec.	24	at Hawaii #		L	34-38

#Hawaii Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	NATIONAL
Scoring	28.5 ppg	67
Rushing	159.1 ypg	68
Passing	284.7 ypg	26
Total	443.8 ypg	28
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	25.5 ppg	48
Rushing	167.5 ypg	78
Passing	226.0 ypg	65
Total	393.5 ypg	68
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**NATIONAL**
+1	+0.08	57

2020 RECRUITS

1. Kody Epps, WR, Santa Ana, CA
2. Bodie Schoonover, LB, American Fork, UT
3. Sol-Jay Maiava, QB, Washington, DC
4. Tate Romney, LB, Chandler, AZ
5. Isaiah Tupou, OG, Sacramento, CA
6. Bruce Garrett, RB, Texarkana, TX
7. Josh Wilson, LB, Draper, UT
8. Tuipulotu Lai, DE, Lahaina, HI
9. Ace Kaufusi, LB, Kahuku, HI
10. Jake Griffin, OT, Mesa, AZ
11. Logan Pili, S, Provo, UT
12. Preston Rex, ATH, San Clemente, CA
13. Koa Eldredge, WR, Honolulu, HI
14. Chris Jackson, WR, Walnut, CA
15. Micah Harper, CB, Chandler, AZ
16. Drason Havea, LB, Provo, UT
17. Devin Downing, WR, American Fork, UT
18. Sitalingi Havea, DT, Chandler, AZ
19. Terence Fall, WR, San Bernardino, CA
20. Alex Muti, LB, Kealakekua, HI
21. Dean Jones, S, Phoenix, AZ
22. Petey Tuipulotu, ATH, Fort Mill, SC
23. Miles Davis, WR, Las Vegas, NV
24. Nukuluve Helu, ATH, Tooele, UT
25. Isaiah Perez, DE, Othello, WA
26. Josh Larsen, ATH, Woods Cross, UT
27. Jacques Wilson, CB, Culver City, CA*
28. John Nelson, DE, Salem, UT
29. Ty Burke, ATH, Syracuse, UT
30. Mac Aloisio, OG, Provo, UT

*junior college transfer

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Gabriel Mayberry/BYU

18+

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ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	31.3	31
Defense	28.9	54
Margin	**+2.4**	**40**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	45.5%	28
Defense	42.9%	79
Margin	**+2.6%**	**55**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.2	35
Defense	5.6	61
Margin	**+0.6**	**43**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	4.1	105
Defense	4.0	26
Margin	**+0.1**	**69**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	-4.1	97
Actual	1	53
Margin	**+5.1**	**23**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

73.33%

BYU entered the red zone 60 times in 2019, which ranked 15th nationally. However, the Cougars came away with points just 73.33 percent of the time, which ranked 120th. BYU scored 31 touchdowns and settled for 13 field goals inside the 20-yard line last year.

13.79%

Havoc rate is the percentage of snaps in which a defense records either a tackle for a loss, pass defended or forced fumble. BYU posted a havoc rate of 13.79 percent in 2019, which ranked 105th in the country.

24.33%

BYU gained 10 yards or more on 227 of its 933 offensive snaps last season. The Cougars' 24.33 percent rate of double-digit gains ranked No. 14 in the country.

DEFENSE Defensively, the Cougars had their struggles in 2019 but should be a bit better if they can find replacements for two outstanding safeties, Dayan Ghanwoloku and Austin Lee.

The return of Khyiris Tonga, another guy who is back for his senior season after toying with the idea of turning pro, was much needed for a defensive line that struggled to get pressure on opposing quarterbacks in 2019. BYU ranked 117th in the country in sacks per game and was feasted upon by opposing QBs such as Hawaii's Cole McDonald and Washington's Jacob Eason.

The defense should also be bolstered by two guys who missed most of 2019 due to injury — Zayne Anderson (shoulder) and Chris Wilcox (knee). Anderson was a linebacker before getting injured in 2018 and failing to recover adequately in 2019, but he has the speed to play safety, maybe even cornerback. Wilcox has played corner but is big enough to move to safety if needed there.

Senior Troy Warner, brother of San Francisco 49ers star Fred Warner, is poised for a big year.

At linebacker, BYU looks solid with a couple of seniors in Isaiah Kaufusi and Kavika Fonua and sophomores Payton Wilgar and Max Tooley. The unit is filled with ballhawks and tallied 10 of the team's 15 interceptions.

SPECIALISTS The Cougars were just 17-of-27 on field-goal attempts in 2019, and several misses cost them wins. Former high school All-America kicker Skyler Southam transferred to Utah; Jake Oldroyd (16-of-24) returns and should be pushed by returned missionary Ryan Rehkow. Those two will also battle to be the starting punter. Kick-return duties are wide open, as Hifo has moved on.

FINAL ANALYSIS BYU should be better in 2020, but that progress might not show in the win-loss column early with a killer schedule. Sitake spent a lot of time talking in the offseason about building depth, after the Cougars faltered late in several games and sustained an inordinately high number of injuries the past few seasons. BYU will score points — it has three talented quarterbacks and a veteran offensive line — but the question will be whether the Cougars can keep teams from lighting up the scoreboard on them. If not, another 7–6 season, or worse, could be in the cards.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR	18	Gunner Romney (Jr.)		Kody Epps (Fr.)
WR	5	Dax Milne (Jr.)	84	Tevita Ika (Fr.)
WR	2	Neil Pau'u (Jr.)	12	Keanu Hill (Fr.)
LT	**67**	**Brady Christensen (Jr.)**	68	Mo Unutoa (Jr.)
LG	74	Kieffer Longson (Sr.)	**61**	**Keanu Saleapaga (Jr.)**
C	**66**	**James Empey (Jr.)**	68	Mo Unutoa (Jr.)
RG	**69**	**Tristen Hoge (Sr.)**	**77**	**Chandon Herring (Sr.)**
RT	**71**	**Blake Freeland (So.)**	76	Harris LaChance (So.)
TE	**89**	**Matt Bushman (Sr.)**	83	Isaac Rex (Fr.)
QB	**1**	**Zach Wilson (Jr.)**	3	Jaren Hall (So.)
RB	4	Lopini Katoa (Jr.)		Devonta'e Henry-Cole (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	**93**	**Bracken El-Bakri (Sr.)**	99	Zac Dawe (Sr.)
NT	**95**	**Khyiris Tonga (Sr.)**	62	Atunaisa Mahe (So.)
DT	55	Lorenzo Fauatea (Jr.)	44	Seleti Fevaleaki (Fr.)
OLB	**53**	**Isaiah Kaufusi (Sr.)**	41	Keenan Pili (So.)
MLB	**34**	**Kavika Fonua (Sr.)**	38	Jackson Kaufusi (So.)
MLB	**49**	**Payton Wilgar (So.)**	47	Pepe Tanuvasa (Jr.)
OLB	3	Chaz Ah You (Jr.)	31	Max Tooley (So.)
CB	16	D'Angelo Mandell (Jr.)	15	Dimitri Gallow (Sr.)
CB	**32**	**Chris Wilcox (Sr.)**	**11**	**Isaiah Herron (So.)**
SS	4	Troy Warner (Sr.)	46	Drew Jensen (So.)
FS	23	Zayne Anderson (Sr.)	12	Malik Moore (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	38	Jake Oldroyd (So.)	**KR**	25	Tyler Allgeier (So.)
P	24	Ryan Rehkow (Fr.)	**PR**	5	Dax Milne (Jr.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Zach Wilson	**319**	**199**	**2,382**	**11**	**9**
Baylor Romney	**85**	**54**	**747**	**7**	**2**
Jaren Hall	**46**	**31**	**420**	**1**	**0**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Sione Finau	**59**	**359**	**6.1**	**2**
Lopini Katoa	**85**	**358**	**4.2**	**4**
Jackson McChesney	**25**	**274**	**11.0**	**2**
Ty'Son Williams	49	264	5.4	3
Emmanuel Esukpa	46	190	4.1	2

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Micah Simon	51	616	12.1	2
Matt Bushman	**47**	**688**	**14.6**	**4**
Talon Shumway	43	561	13.0	4
Aleva Hifo	42	483	11.5	3
Gunner Romney	**31**	**377**	**12.2**	**2**

KICKING: **Jake Oldroyd, 16-24 FGs, 88 pts.**
TACKLES: **Kavika Fonua, 83**; Dayan Ghanwoloku, 62
SACKS: 4 tied with 2.0
INTERCEPTIONS: **Payton Wilgar, 3**

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE COUGARS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP BYU

"Their returning starting quarterback (Zach Wilson) might not be their best option. I think there's going to be a full-on race through camp, and they might make a change this season. With his injuries, he kind of plateaued. ... They were really banged up in the secondary. There's potential here; it's really all about their health on defense. ... You think maybe they've got issues with conditioning, only because you see a lot of their guys go down. They've definitely been bit hard by the injury bug while (Kalani) Sitake has been there, and after a while you take a look and see if you're causing any of that. ... They're never going to surprise you, but they're going to play you really mean, really hard, and they have a tremendous home-field advantage in Provo. They can level out some of the middle of the road P5s when they catch them at home. ... The question inside this program is, 'When are we going to take that next step?' but I think the question outside of it is, 'Why do they think they can do the same things the same ways and get different results?' Every year, this is a roster that's one of the better-looking G5s on paper, and they can reach up and beat a P5, but they're not athletic or deep enough to look like the P5 they think they can be. They just aren't."

NOTRE DAME Fighting Irish

National Forecast: **9** • Projected Record: **10-2**

Ian Book

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Brian Kelly
Record at School: 92-37 (10 years)
Career Record: 263-94-2 (29+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Tommy Rees
Defensive Coordinator: Clark Lea
Location: South Bend, IN
Stadium: Notre Dame Stadium (77,622)

KEY FIGHTING IRISH

IAN BOOK, QB Played like a veteran quarterback down the stretch of the 2019 season, albeit against modest competition.

JEREMIAH OWUSU-KORAMOAH, OLB His 13.5 tackles for a loss paced the Irish in 2019, and his 5.5 sacks tied for the team lead with Khalid Kareem.

ADE OGUNDEJI, DE The heir apparent to Notre Dame's recently established pass-rush tradition.

KEY LOSSES

CHASE CLAYPOOL, WR Physically dominant wideout caught 66 passes for a 15.7-yard average and 13 touchdowns.

KHALID KAREEM, DE Provided a steady force with 10 tackles for a loss, 5.5 sacks and 11 QB hurries.

ALOHI GILMAN, S Heady, instinctive Naval Academy transfer commandeered the back end of the Irish defense with Jalen Elliott the past two seasons.

RISING STAR

Some would argue that safety **KYLE HAMILTON** already has risen with a team-leading four interceptions to go along with six pass breakups and 41 tackles serving mostly as Notre Dame's third safety/fifth DB as a true freshman. The expectation is a first-round draft selection in 2021.

After 10 seasons as head coach at Notre Dame, Brian Kelly is measured by two opposing metrics.

There's the 33–6 stat, which is Notre Dame's record the past three seasons with 11, 12 and 10 victories, respectively. That's the best three-year run at Notre Dame since Lou Holtz went 31–5–1 from 1991-93. And then there are the blowout losses to Miami (2017), Clemson in the 2018 playoffs and the never-had-a-chance loss at Michigan last year.

These are the best of times at Notre Dame in nearly three decades, while also increasingly restless times due to the raised expectations.

"We've got a chance to be really good next year," said Kelly in December. "Really good."

"Really good" will require victories over Wisconsin in Green Bay in October and a home victory against powerful Clemson in November while adding to a three-game winning streak over USC in the regular-season finale.

OFFENSE A significant part of Kelly's optimism hinges upon the decision by quarterback Ian Book to return for his final year of eligibility after Book led the Irish to six straight victories, including a decisive stomping of Iowa State in the Camping World Bowl.

"What's great leadership? It's when you battle through adversity," says Kelly of Book. "After the Michigan (loss), for him to lead our team to six consecutive wins shows some resilience and leadership."

Book, who led the Irish to the playoffs in '18 and then struggled with his confidence and decision-making the first half of last year, was mostly sharp in victories over Virginia Tech, Duke, Navy, Boston College, Stanford and the Cyclones. Now, there's no time to come out of the gate slowly, not with the loss of his top three pass-catchers (Chase Claypool, Chris Finke and Cole Kmet) and a rushing attack comprised of a half-dozen running backs who couldn't distinguish themselves in 2019.

The Irish are pinning the rest of their hopes on six returning regulars along the offensive line, led by seniors Robert Hainsey, Tommy Kraemer and Liam Eichenberg and junior Aaron Banks. They'll also count on the emergence of wideouts Kevin Austin, Braden Lenzy and Lawrence Keys III, as well as tight end Tommy Tremble, as the next wave of skill-position talent cycles through.

After a parting of ways with offensive coordinator Chip Long, Kelly has turned to Tommy Rees — his quarterback for the better part of the 2010-13 seasons with the Irish — to run the show. Rees' trial run against Iowa State was a success, but he'll be measured by what he does against Wisconsin, Clemson and USC.

DEFENSE It took just two seasons as coordinator for Clark Lea to come within a hair of landing a head-coaching job at a Power 5 conference school. Lea finished runner-up to Jeff Hafley (Ohio State) for the head-coaching job at Boston College after fielding his second straight top-15 scoring defense.

"His consistency and teaching approach have been (easy) for the players to adapt to, regardless if it's a player

2020 SCHEDULE

Aug.	29	vs. Navy #
Sept.	12	Arkansas
Sept.	19	Western Michigan
Sept.	26	vs. Wake Forest %
Oct.	3	vs. Wisconsin &
Oct.	10	Stanford
Oct.	17	at Pittsburgh
Oct.	31	Duke
Nov.	7	Clemson
Nov.	14	at Georgia Tech $
Nov.	21	Louisville
Nov.	28	at USC

#Dublin, Ireland %Charlotte, NC &Green Bay, WI
$Mercedes-Benz Stadium

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 11-2

Sept.	3	at Louisville	W	35-17
Sept.	14	New Mexico	W	66-14
Sept.	22	at Georgia	L	17-23
Sept.	28	Virginia	W	35-20
Oct.	5	Bowling Green	W	52-0
Oct.	12	USC	W	30-27
Oct.	26	at Michigan	L	14-45
Nov.	2	Virginia Tech	W	21-20
Nov.	9	at Duke	W	38-7
Nov.	16	Navy	W	52-20
Nov.	23	Boston College	W	40-7
Nov.	30	at Stanford	W	45-24
Dec.	28	vs. Iowa State #	W	33-9

#Camping World Bowl

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	NATIONAL
Scoring	36.8 ppg	13
Rushing	179.2 ypg	45
Passing	252.2 ypg	49
Total	431.4 ypg	43
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	17.9 ppg	12
Rushing	153.1 ypg	60
Passing	168.5 ypg	3
Total	321.6 ypg	18
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**NATIONAL**
+17	+1.31	4

2020 RECRUITS

1. Michael Mayer, TE, Alexandria, KY
2. Jordan Johnson, WR, Saint Louis, MO
3. Chris Tyree, RB, Chester, VA
4. Tosh Baker, OT, Phoenix, AZ
5. Jordan Botelho, LB, Honolulu, HI
6. Mike Carmody, OT, Mars, PA
7. Rylie Mills, DE, Lake Forest, IL
8. Drew Pyne, QB, New Canaan, CT
9. Kevin Bauman, TE, Red Bank, NJ
10. Xavier Watts, WR, Omaha, NE
11. Aidan Keanaaina, DT, Denver, CO
12. Caleb Offord, CB, Southaven, MS
13. Ramon Henderson, ATH, Bakersfield, CA
14. Clarence Lewis, CB, Middletown, NJ
15. Jay Brunelle, WR, Shrewsbury, MA
16. Alexander Ehrensberger, DE, Dusseldorf, Ger.
17. Alex Peitsch, LS, Washington, DC

Recruits ranked according to the 247Sports Composite

Aaron M. Sprecher via AP

ADVANCED STATS

5 Factors: College Football's Most Important Stats

Field Position[1]		Rank
Offense	32.1	17
Defense	26.7	11
Margin	**+5.4**	**8**
Efficiency[2]		**Rank**
Offense	43.8%	47
Defense	37.9%	27
Margin	**+5.9%**	**28**
Explosiveness[3]		**Rank**
Offense	6.3	29
Defense	4.7	8
Margin	**+1.6**	**9**
Finishing Drives[4]		**Rank**
Offense	5.2	13
Defense	4.1	29
Margin	**+1.1**	**17**
Adjusted TO Margin[5]		**Rank**
Projected	12.4	4
Actual	17	4
Margin	**+4.6**	**27**

KEY: 1-Average starting field position by yard line; **2**-Rate of successful plays (gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down); **3**-Explosiveness=yards per play; **4**-Points per trip inside 40-yard line; **5**-TO margin accounting for "luck"

NUMBERS TO KNOW

2.15

Notre Dame was one of the nation's best at forcing turnovers in 2019. The Fighting Irish forced an average of 2.15 turnovers per game, which ranked second in the nation. A big reason for that success was Notre Dame's ability to force fumbles, as the Irish also ranked second among FBS defenses with an average of 1.54 forced fumbles per game and ranked No. 4 with an average of 0.0387 forced fumbles per carry.

0.85

Notre Dame also had excellent ball security numbers last season. The Fighting Irish committed just 0.85 turnovers per game last season, which ranked No. 7 nationally.

76.36%

Notre Dame scored 42 touchdowns in 55 trips inside the red zone in 2019, a 76.36 percent red zone touchdown rate that ranked No. 8 in the country.

with a lot or little experience," says Kelly of Lea.

Most of the proven pass rushers — Khalid Kareem, Julian Okwara and Jamir Jones — are gone after combining for 14 sacks and 22.5 tackles for a loss in 2019. Another contingent of pass rushers looks promising, led by fifth-year end Ade Ogundeji.

Two of the top three linebackers are back. Drew White is the blue-collar player in the middle with budding star Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah coming off a dominant performance to conclude the '19 season.

Lea won't have the advantage of trotting out safeties Alohi Gilman and Jalen Elliott, who turned a moribund back rung in 2017 into a difference-making pair in 2018-19. Also gone is veteran cornerback Troy Pride Jr., although the Irish do benefit from sixth-year cornerback/nickel Shaun Crawford's return.

Softening the blow of losing Gilman and Elliott is the ceiling-free promise of sophomore Kyle Hamilton, the standout safety who lived up to his billing as the playmaking third man in the rotation as a true freshman.

SPECIALISTS Concern over the loss of all-time leading scorer Justin Yoon and booming punter Tyler Newsome following the 2018 season was perfectly valid. And yet by the end of the first month of the 2019 season, kicker Jonathan Doerer and true freshman punter Jay Bramblett had relieved all concerns. Doerer made 17 of his 20 field-goal attempts in 2019, while 24 of Bramblett's 63 punts were fair caught, and opponents averaged just 3.9 yards per return on the rest.

Speedy wide receiver Lenzy is expected to give the Irish kick return unit a boost.

FINAL ANALYSIS With the inside track to making the playoffs heading into November in three of the last five seasons, the standard for success at Notre Dame has been altered.

"This is the first team that I've had that has really established who they are and what they want to be," Kelly says. "It's hard to have a group of 18-to-21-year-olds say, 'This is how we're going to go to work every day.'"

Nothing short of a playoff berth — essentially, no more than one loss — will achieve the newly established expectation at Notre Dame.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)

WR	4	Kevin Austin Jr. (So.)	11	Ben Skowronek (Sr.)
WR	25	Braden Lenzy (So.)	88	Javon McKinley (Sr.)
WR	13	Lawrence Keys III (So.)	18	Joe Wilkins (So.)
LT	**74**	**Liam Eichenberg (Sr.)**	75	Josh Lugg (Jr.)
LG	**69**	**Aaron Banks (Jr.)**	77	Quinn Carroll (Fr.)
C	**55**	**Jarrett Patterson (So.)**	61	Colin Grunhard (Jr.)
RG	**78**	**Tommy Kraemer (Sr.)**	56	John Dirksen (So.)
RT	**72**	**Robert Hainsey (Sr.)**	75	Josh Lugg (Jr.)
TE	89	Brock Wright (Sr.)	**24**	**Tommy Tremble (So.)**
QB	**12**	**Ian Book (Sr.)**	7	Brendon Clark (Fr.)
RB	8	Jafar Armstrong (Jr.)	20	C'Bo Flemister (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

Returning Starters in Bold

DE	91	Ade Ogundeji (Sr.)	19	Justin Ademilola (So.)
NT	**41**	**Kurt Hinish (Sr.)**	54	Jacob Lacey (So.)
DT	95	**M. Tagovailoa-Amosa (Jr.)**	57	Jayson Ademilola (Jr.)
DE	9	Daelin Hayes (Sr.)	94	Isaiah Foskey (Fr.)
OLB	**6**	**J. Owusu-Koramoah (Jr.)**	13	Paul Moala (Jr.)
MLB	**40**	**Drew White (Jr.)**	52	Bo Bauer (Jr.)
OLB	2	Jordan Genmark Heath (Sr.)	31	Jack Lamb (So.)
CB	**20**	**Shaun Crawford (Sr.)**	15	Isaiah Rutherford (Fr.)
CB	28	TaRiq Bracy (Jr.)	16	KJ Wallace (Fr.)
SS	3	Houston Griffith (Jr.)	10	Isaiah Pryor (Jr.)
FS	14	Kyle Hamilton (So.)	12	DJ Brown (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	39	Jonathan Doerer (Sr.)	**KR**	25	Braden Lenzy (So.)
P	19	Jay Bramblett (So.)	**PR**	13	Lawrence Keys III (So.)

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Ian Book	**399**	**240**	**3,034**	**34**	**6**
Phil Jurkovec	16	12	222	2	0
Brendon Clark	**1**	**1**	**22**	**1**	**0**

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Tony Jones Jr.	144	857	6.0	6
Ian Book	**112**	**546**	**4.9**	**4**
Braden Lenzy	**13**	**200**	**15.4**	**2**
Jahmir Smith	**42**	**180**	**4.3**	**2**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Chase Claypool	66	1,037	15.7	13
Cole Kmet	43	515	12.0	6
Chris Finke	41	456	11.1	4
Tommy Tremble	**16**	**183**	**11.4**	**4**
Lawrence Keys III	**13**	**134**	**10.3**	**0**

KICKING: Jonathan Doerer, 17-20 FGs, 108 pts.
TACKLES: Drew White, 80; Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah, 80
SACKS: Khalid Kareem, 5.5, **Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah, 5.5**
INTERCEPTIONS: Kyle Hamilton, 4

Returning Players in Bold

SCOUTING THE FIGHTING IRISH

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP NOTRE DAME

"The last two seasons have been an impressive resurgence for Brian Kelly. It seemed like everything was going to fall apart and that job was going to eat him up, and he re-emerged by doing the hard things. They blew up the staff, and from what we hear, he's been willing to change a lot, too. ... Putting (Tommy) Rees at OC is a really shrewd move. You can't overemphasize how popular this will be with their hardcores if it works out. He gets the benefit of having a veteran quarterback back, otherwise this could've been a disaster. ... The receivers are gone, and they don't have anyone dynamic in the backfield. This where you see the gaps in recruiting. ... Defense needs to be their identity. This is probably the last year they have (Clark) Lea. He's a phenomenal mind. They're smart and they're physical, which is something a lot of defensive coaches struggle to balance. ... If their standard is playoff or nothing, it could be hard with the schedule. When we prep for these guys, you have to look at their entire schedule. Are they playing to stay healthy? Are they in a lighter stretch? It's different than a P5. They're going to face more athleticism late in the year with the ACC teams. That could help them get further along on offense. ... Outside of Clemson, there shouldn't be a team this roster looks noticeably slower or smaller against."

ARMY Black Knights

National Forecast: **93** · Projected Record: **6-6**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	Bucknell
Sept.	12	at Rice
Sept.	26	Oklahoma
Oct.	3	at Miami (Ohio)
Oct.	10	Princeton
Oct.	17	Eastern Michigan
Oct.	24	Buffalo
Nov.	7	Air Force
Nov.	14	at Tulane
Nov.	21	at Massachusetts
Nov.	28	at Connecticut
Dec.	12	vs. Navy #

#Philadelphia, PA

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 5-8

Aug.	30	Rice	W	14-7
Sept.	7	at Michigan	L	21-24
Sept.	14	at UTSA	W	31-13
Sept.	21	Morgan State	W	52-21
Oct.	5	Tulane	L	33-42
Oct.	12	at Western Kentucky	L	8-17
Oct.	19	at Georgia State	L	21-28
Oct.	26	San Jose State	L	29-34
Nov.	2	at Air Force	L	13-17
Nov.	9	Massachusetts	W	63-7
Nov.	16	VMI	W	47-6
Nov.	30	at Hawaii	L	31-52
Dec.	14	vs. Navy #	L	7-31

#Philadelphia, PA

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Isaac Hurtado, ATH, Cypress, CA
2. David Hoyt, OT, Tampa, FL
3. Jackson Powell, DE, Buford, GA
4. Connor Finucane, OG, Baton Rouge, LA
5. Andre Miller, DE, Savannah, GA
6. Brian Burton, LB, Waco, TX
7. Tommy Zitiello, S, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
8. Aaron Adams, RB, West Palm Beach, FL
9. Javon Ellis, S, Chicago, IL
10. Raleigh Oxendine, DT, Tampa, FL

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	NATIONAL
Scoring	28.5 ppg	67
Rushing	297.2 ypg	3
Passing	82.0 ypg	129
Total	379.2 ypg	89
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	23.0 ppg	41
Rushing	163.4 ypg	73
Passing	178.9 ypg	5
Total	342.3 ypg	30
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**NATIONAL**
-1	-0.08	70

STAT CORNER

594

The Black Knights rolled up 594 rushing yards in a 47–6 victory over VMI last season — the highest single-game total in the country in 2019.

OFFENSE Jabari Laws is a familiar face at quarterback. The junior made five starts last season and was the Black Knights' fourth-leading rusher with 484 yards while averaging 6.4 yards per tote. Though the sample size was small, Laws impressed by completing 80 percent of his passes for 311 yards and one touchdown. The hope is that he'll be ready to go after being sidelined by a late-season knee injury. Christian Anderson (429 yards rushing) is an experienced backup and will get the call if Laws is not ready.

Senior fullback Sandon McCoy is the leading returning rusher (576 yards) and led the team a year ago with 10 touchdowns on the ground. Senior running back Artice Hobbs IV had 493 yards from scrimmage and could play a much larger role. The same could be said of junior running back Cade Barnard and 260-pound sophomore fullback Jakobi Buchanan, both of whom had fewer than 20 rushing attempts last season.

With 41 career starts among them, center/right tackle JB Hunter and right guard Peyton Reeder are easily the most experienced offensive linemen. Luke McCleery made three starts at left tackle last season and could be a full-time starter as a senior.

Senior receiver Cam Harrison led the team with 25 catches. He became only the second Army receiver since 2007 to have a pair of 100-yard receiving games in the same season.

DEFENSE The departure of linebacker Cole Christiansen, who was last season's leading tackler, and corner Elijah Riley, who led the unit in sacks and interceptions, left huge cleats to fill. Hence, there are jobs to be won and not only in the starting ranks, but also in providing depth.

The linebacking corps should be in pretty good shape with junior Arik Smith, the leading returning tackler, and senior Jeremiah Lowery, who started eight games in 2019.

Javhari Bourdeau emerged as a solid corner last season while starting opposite Riley, and junior safety Cedrick Cunningham Jr. had a nice first season as a starter, placing fifth in tackles.

Up front, senior Edriece Patterson and junior Kwabena Bonsu combined for 11 tackles for a loss and five sacks.

SPECIALISTS Cole Talley returns after splitting placekicking duties with the departed David Cooper. Landon Salyers, who has handled kickoffs the past two seasons, and Andrew Bagley, could also get a look. Zach Harding averaged 48.2 yards on 21 punts last season, and eight of his boots traveled at least 50 yards. Brandon Walters and Hobbs handled the majority of the kick returns, and Akyah Miranda virtually all of the punt returns. The trio could fill those respective roles again this season.

FINAL ANALYSIS Last season, the Black Knights won only twice after September. As a result, a three-season bowl streak, the academy's longest, came to halt. While anticipation has been building for Oklahoma's first visit to Michie Stadium since 1946, a schedule that is again sprinkled with a pair of FCS teams is far from daunting. If Laws is healthy and builds on his experience from last season, and a couple of defenders emerge to lift a unit that has seen a number of true playmakers graduate in recent years, then Army should at least be back in the bowl picture.

Jabari Laws

"They took a significant step back last season. Offensively, they seemed to be lacking a little bit for talent in the backfield."

— An opposing assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)				
WR	**88**	**Cam Harrison (Sr.)**	87	Sean Eckert (Jr.)
WR	14	Michael Roberts (Jr.)	89	Jalen Moy (Jr.)
LT	**60**	**Alex Herndon (Sr.)**	68	Luke McCleery (Sr.)
LG	59	Mike Johnson (Sr.)	56	Mason Kolinchak (Jr.)
C	**55**	**JB Hunter (Sr.)**	65	Noah Knapp (Jr.)
RG	**76**	**Peyton Reeder (Sr.)**	67	Dean Powell (Jr.)
RT	68	Luke McCleery (Sr.)	55	JB Hunter (Sr.)
QB	1	Jabari Laws (Jr.)	13	Christian Anderson (Sr.)
RB	**32**	**Artice Hobbs IV (Sr.)**	27	Brandon Walters (Jr.)
RB	19	Dominic Distefano (Sr.)	29	A.J. Howard (Jr.)
FB	**3**	**Sandon McCoy (Sr.)**	33	Jakobi Buchanan (So.)
DEFENSE (7)				**Returning Starters in Bold**
DE	**55**	**Edriece Patterson (Sr.)**	91	Ryan Duran III (Jr.)
NT	56	Nick Stokes (Sr.)	94	Conor Hough (So.)
DT	**97**	**Kwabena Bonsu (Jr.)**	95	Nolan Cockrill (Jr.)
OLB	**43**	**Jeremiah Lowery (Sr.)**	31	Joe Stephenson (Sr.)
ILB	**53**	**Arik Smith (Jr.)**	38	Fabrice Voyne (So.)
ILB	49	Kemonte Yow (Jr.)	47	Jon Rhattigan (Sr.)
OLB	52	Amadeo West (Sr.)	36	Nate Jones (Jr.)
CB	**2**	**Malkelm Morrison (Jr.)**	28	Jabari Moore (So.)
CB	**8**	**Javhari Bourdeau (Sr.)**	22	Julian McDuffie (Jr.)
S	**22**	**Cedrick Cunningham Jr. (Jr.)**	29	Izzy Okojie (So.)
S	10	Marquel Broughton (So.)	13	Chris Skyers (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	96	Cole Talley (So.)	**KR**	27	Brandon Walters (Jr.)
P	46	Zach Harding (Jr.)	**PR**	4	Akyah Miranda (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jabari Laws, 20-16-311-0, 1 TD
Rushing: Sandon McCoy, 134 att., 576 yds., 10 TDs
Receiving: Cam Harrison, 25 rec., 433 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Arik Smith, 83
Sacks: Edriece Patterson, 5.0
Interceptions: Javhari Bourdeau, 1

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Jeff Monken
Record at School: 40-36 (6 years)
Career Record: 78-52 (10 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Brent Davis
Defensive Coordinator: Nate Woody
West Point, NY • Michie Stadium (38,000)

Danny Wild/USA Today Sports

CONNECTICUT Huskies

National Forecast: **123** · Projected Record: **3-9**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3	Massachusetts
Sept.	12	at Illinois
Sept.	19	at Virginia
Sept.	26	Indiana
Oct.	3	Old Dominion
Oct.	10	Maine
Oct.	24	at Ole Miss
Oct.	31	Liberty
Nov.	7	at North Carolina
Nov.	14	at San Jose State
Nov.	21	Middle Tennessee
Nov.	28	Army

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 2-10, 0-8 AAC

Aug.	29	Wagner	W	24-21
Sept.	7	Illinois	L	23-31
Sept.	21	at Indiana	L	3-38
Sept.	28	at UCF	L	21-56
Oct.	5	USF	L	22-48
Oct.	12	at Tulane	L	7-49
Oct.	19	Houston	L	17-24
Oct.	26	at Massachusetts	W	56-35
Nov.	1	Navy	L	10-56
Nov.	9	at Cincinnati	L	3-48
Nov.	23	East Carolina	L	24-31
Nov.	30	at Temple	L	17-49

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. MarQuayveon Evans, DT, Chester, SC
2. Durante Jones, CB, Atlanta, GA
3. Alfred Chea, CB, Jacksonville, FL
4. Brendan Heatherman, TE, Stafford, VA
5. Carter Hooper, DE, Toronto, ON
6. Alex Wyant, OT, Santa Ana, CA*
7. Collin McCarthy, DE, Jackson, NJ
8. Christopher Fortin, OT, Montreal, QC
9. Tui Faumuina-Brown, LB, Monroeville, PA
10. Marques Alexander, DE, Saint Petersburg, FL

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	AAC	NATIONAL
Scoring	18.9 ppg	12	120
Rushing	128.7 ypg	12	108
Passing	216.0 ypg	7	81
Total	344.7 ypg	11	108
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	40.5 ppg	12	128
Rushing	223.6 ypg	12	123
Passing	243.3 ypg	9	93
Total	466.8 ypg	10	116
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**AAC**	**NATIONAL**
-8	-0.67	12	113

STAT CORNER

6.39%

Not including sacks, UConn recorded 28 tackles for a loss on 438 rushing attempts last season — a rate of 6.39 percent that ranked dead last among all 130 FBS defenses.

OFFENSE UConn rotated through quarterbacks in 2019 and could do so again this season. After a freshman year full of promise and frustration in equal measure, Jack Zergiotis will seek to smooth out his game in 2020. He'll be pushed by sophomore Steven Krajewski and junior Micah Leon, both of whom missed much of last year with injuries.

Regardless of who plays quarterback, the Huskies have some talented skill players, beginning with two-time 1,000-yard rusher Kevin Mensah. With little depth at running back, UConn will need Mensah to carry a heavy load in 2020 and post one final big season.

Cameron Ross was one of the best freshman receivers in the nation last year and will be a focal point of the offense. Receiver Matt Drayton and tight end Jay Rose also figure to catch plenty of passes.

Possibly UConn's biggest question on offense is the O-line, which lost three starters and several key reserves from last year. A mix of young players and junior college transfers will assume key roles there.

DEFENSE UConn's defense improved last season from historically bad to merely regular-bad, and it could take another step in 2020 as young players continue to mature.

The D-line looks like one of the Huskies' top strengths, with a crew of experienced players including burly defensive tackle Travis Jones and dynamic end Kevon Jones, plus Caleb Thomas, Dillon Harris, Lwal Uguak and others.

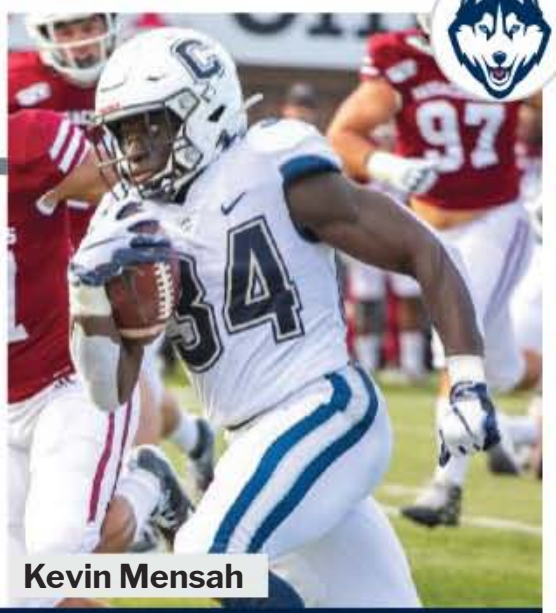
The secondary, on the other hand, could be a problem, having lost several key players to the transfer portal. Cornerback Keyshawn Paul and safety Diamond Harrell return as starters, but the other two spots remain question marks, and overall depth appears to be an issue.

Sophomore linebacker Jackson Mitchell, who emerged during the second half of last season, is a player to watch.

SPECIALISTS Team captain Luke Magliozzi enters his third season as the starting punter. The Aussie is as steady as any UConn player. Sophomores Clayton Harris and Noah Iden will compete for kicking duties for the second straight year. UConn coaches have made a point to recruit speed in recent years, and that will likely show up in the return game, with Ross among the candidates for return reps.

FINAL ANALYSIS After going 6–30 over his first three seasons back in Storrs, head coach Randy Edsall faces pressure to win more games in 2020, with a roster full of players whom he recruited. And yes, there is some reason to think UConn will improve its win-loss record. The team's quarterbacks return with more experience, and players such as Paul, Mitchell and Travis Jones will anchor a defense that remains young but has talent. It won't hurt that the schedule — in UConn's first season back as an independent since a four-year stretch in 2000-03 — has more winnable games than the typical American Athletic Conference slate did. There's also reason for doubt, however. The Huskies were slammed by transfers this offseason, leaving the O-line and secondary particularly shaky. And until someone steps up at quarterback, that position will remain uncertain.

UConn almost certainly won't contend for bowl eligibility in 2020. But improvement isn't too much to ask.



Kevin Mensah

"They think they're going to be bad. Getting worse. Call it hopeless if you want. It's just messed up. They need to go FCS. I'm not sure what being an indie gets you."

— An opposing assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)				
WR	7	**Cameron Ross (So.)**	87	Cameron Hairston (Jr.)
WR	4	**Matt Drayton (So.)**	14	Elijah Jeffreys (So.)
WR	3	Heron Maurisseau (So.)	86	Kevens Clercius (Fr.)
LT	74	**Ryan Van Demark (Sr.)**	78	Andrew Torres-Silva (Jr.)
LG	50	Dylan Niedrowski (So.)	76	Jonathan Pace (Jr.)
C	53	Sidney Walker (Jr.)	51	Peter Rooney Jr. (So.)
RG	64	**Christian Haynes (So.)**	62	Noel Ofori-Nyadu (So.)
RT	73	Alex Wyant (Jr.)	75	Chase Lundt (Fr.)
TE	81	**Jay Rose (Sr.)**	80	Jayce Medlock (So.)
QB	11	**Jack Zergiotis (So.)**	8	Steven Krajewski (So.)
RB	34	**Kevin Mensah (Sr.)**	26	Nathan Carter (Fr.)

DEFENSE (10)				Returning Starters in Bold
DE	48	**Kevon Jones (Jr.)**	95	Eric Watts (So.)
DT	57	**Travis Jones (Jr.)**	98	Lwal Uguak (Jr.)
DT	52	**Caleb Thomas (Jr.)**	96	Dal'mont Gourdine (Fr.)
DE	58	**Dillon Harris (Sr.)**	93	Pierce DeVaughn (So.)
OLB	41	**D.J. Morgan (Sr.)**	5	Terrence Ganyi (So.)
MLB	43	**Jackson Mitchell (So.)**	33	Hunter Webb (So.)
OLB	27	**Omar Fortt (Sr.)**	44	**Ian Swenson (Jr.)**
CB	6	**Keyshawn Paul (Jr.)**	2	Myles Bell (So.)
CB	21	Jeremy Lucien (Jr.)	37	Kyle Williams (Sr.)
SS	20	Robert P. King III (Jr.)	8	Jalon Ferrell (So.)
FS	3	**Diamond Harrell (Sr.)**	31	Malik Dixon (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	49	Clayton Harris (So.)	KR	7	Cameron Ross (So.)
P	99	Luke Magliozzi (Jr.)	PR	7	Cameron Ross (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jack Zergiotis, 260-150-1,782-11, 9 TDs
Rushing: Kevin Mensah, 226 att., 1,013 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Cameron Ross, 60 rec., 723 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Omar Fortt, 70
Sacks: Lwal Uguak, 4.0
Interceptions: Diamond Harrell, 2

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Randy Edsall
Record at School: 80-100 (15 years)
Career Record: 102-134 (19+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Frank Giufre
Defensive Coordinator: Lou Spanos
Storrs, CT • Rentschler Field (40,000)

UConn Athletics

LIBERTY Flames

National Forecast: **110** · Projected Record: **6-6**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at Virginia Tech
Sept.	12	North Carolina A&T
Sept.	19	at Western Kentucky
Sept.	26	FIU
Oct.	3	at Bowling Green
Oct.	10	ULM
Oct.	17	at Syracuse
Oct.	24	Southern Miss
Oct.	31	at Connecticut
Nov.	14	Western Carolina
Nov.	21	at NC State
Nov.	28	Massachusetts

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5

Aug.	31	Syracuse	L	0-24
Sept.	7	at Louisiana	L	14-35
Sept.	14	Buffalo	W	35-17
Sept.	21	Hampton	W	62-27
Sept.	28	New Mexico	W	17-10
Oct.	6	at New Mexico State	W	20-13
Oct.	19	Maine	W	59-44
Oct.	26	at Rutgers	L	34-44
Nov.	2	at Massachusetts	W	63-21
Nov.	9	at BYU	L	24-31
Nov.	23	at Virginia	L	27-55
Nov.	30	New Mexico State	W	49-28
Dec.	21	vs. Ga. Southern #	W	23-16

#Cure Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Stephen Sings, DE, Charlotte, NC
2. Rashad Whitehead, DE, Atlanta, GA
3. Brian Hannibal, OG, Silver Spring, MD
4. Juawan Treadwell, CB, Crete, IL*
5. Ahmad Jackson, WR, Tyrone, GA
6. Tim Coutras, S, Nolensville, TN
7. Quinton Reese, CB, Roswell, GA
8. Karsen Perkins, TE, Concord, NC
9. Deon Biggins, CB, Horn Lake, MS
10. Marcus Haskins, S, St. Paul, MN*

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	NATIONAL
Scoring	32.8 ppg	34
Rushing	150.5 ypg	78
Passing	288.9 ypg	21
Total	439.4 ypg	32
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	28.1 ppg	68
Rushing	189.7 ypg	96
Passing	219.5 ypg	52
Total	409.2 ypg	80
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**NATIONAL**
+2	+0.15	50

STAT CORNER

12.0

Liberty featured a strong pass rush in 2019, recording a sack every 12.0 pass attempts, which ranked in the top 20 nationally.

OFFENSE Hugh Freeze frequently went against his nature in 2019 and slowed the offensive tempo to help a defense still needing to develop depth. That will change drastically this season. Auburn transfer Malik Willis replaces record-setting signal caller Buckshot Calvert at quarterback, and the athletic Willis gives the Flames a true dual-threat option to make Freeze's RPO offense more dynamic. Willis spent the 2019 season redshirting and polishing his passing skills, which will allow Freeze to open up more of the playbook for the upcoming campaign.

Willis won't have Antonio Gandy-Golden at his disposal in the passing game, but he does have a pair of talented youngsters on the outside in Noah Frith and CJ Yarbrough. Frith started the final seven games and was tied for second on the team with three touchdown receptions, and Yarbrough averaged more than 20 yards per reception in four games.

Johnny Huntley and Jerome Jackson lead a tight end group that became vital in the offense's success. The tight ends, who combined for seven touchdown receptions last season, were nearly nonexistent in the years prior to Freeze's arrival.

Joshua Mack takes over at running back after averaging 5.8 yards per carry and scoring seven TDs last season. He will run behind a line with three returning starters (Tristan Schultz, Damian Bounds and Thomas Sargeant) and Ole Miss transfer Bryce Mathews.

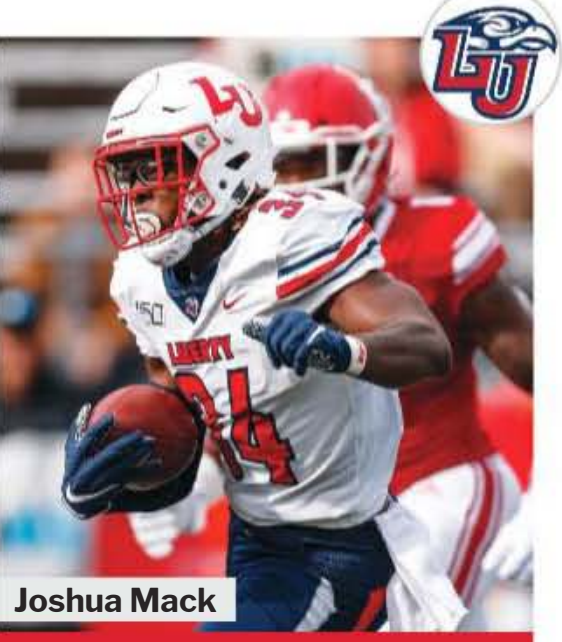
DEFENSE Defensive coordinator Scott Symons turned this unit into a respectable force that shined during the Cure Bowl victory over Georgia Southern. The backbone of the defense was a trio of seniors — linebacker Solomon Ajayi, rover Elijah Benton and defensive end Jessie Lemonier. All three are gone, but there are plenty of pieces left for Symons to keep building the defense. TreShaun Clark emerged as a bonafide pass rusher with 4.5 sacks, while Ralfs Rusins finally got significant playing time and shored up the middle of the line with 60 tackles at nose guard. Austin Lewis and Brayden Monday are both slated to play opposite of Clark on the edge.

Javon Scruggs leads a secondary with plenty of young talent. Scruggs, who shined at free safety with two takeaways, moves to rover to replace Benton's production. Kei'Trel Clark and Jimmy Faulks are both back at cornerback.

Charlotte transfer Anthony Butler provides immediate leadership at Mike linebacker, while Tyren Dupree is building off a strong Cure Bowl in which he was stellar against the run.

SPECIALISTS Alex Barbir, a former kicker at Penn State, joined the program in the spring and is expected to handle the placekicking duties. Barbir's ability to fill in for one season allows Jason Stricker another year to develop.

FINAL ANALYSIS Freeze led Liberty to a bowl victory in its first season of eligibility, and the expectations have been raised for the newest FBS program. The roster has been significantly upgraded through two recruiting cycles under Freeze. The changes will allow the up-tempo attack to mirror Freeze's offenses of old, and the defense has grown faster than initially expected. Freeze's teams have improved in the second year in his previous stops, and another step forward should have Liberty back in a bowl game.



Joshua Mack

"They're aggressive, they want to win now and it shows. They're going to be more talented, but it's not really built for consistency."

— An opposing assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (5)				
WR		Javian Lofton (Jr.)	**81**	**Noah Frith (So.)**
WR	13	CJ Yarbrough (Fr.)	2	Kevin Shaa (Sr.)
WR	**5**	**DJ Stubbs (Sr.)**	9	Demario Douglas (Fr.)
LT	**68**	**Tristan Schultz (Sr.)**	52	Jonathan Graham (So.)
LG	**59**	**Damian Bounds (Sr.)**	75	Maisen Knight (Sr.)
C	**65**	**Thomas Sargeant (Sr.)**	79	John Kourtis (So.)
RG	55	Brendan Schlittler (So.)	64	Jacob Bodden (So.)
RT	74	Bryce Mathews (Sr.)	77	Cooper McCaw (Jr.)
TE	3	Johnny Huntley (Sr.)	88	Jerome Jackson (Jr.)
QB	7	Malik Willis (Jr.)	14	Chris Ferguson (Sr.)
RB	34	Joshua Mack (Sr.)	25	Peytton Pickett (Sr.)

DEFENSE (5)		Returning Starters in Bold		
DE	**96**	**TreShaun Clark (So.)**	11	Durrell Johnson (Jr.)
NT	**99**	**Ralfs Rusins (Sr.)**	97	Elisha Mitchell (Jr.)
DT	55	Elijah James (Sr.)	93	William Green (Jr.)
DE	44	Austin Lewis (Jr.)	98	Brayden Monday (Fr.)
MLB	6	Anthony Butler (Sr.)	9	Amarii Jenkins (Jr.)
OLB	35	Tyren Dupree (So.)	33	Waylen Cozad (Sr.)
CB	**23**	**Kei'Trel Clark (So.)**	2	Emanuel Dabney (Sr.)
CB	**8**	**Jimmy Faulks (Sr.)**	18	Isaiah Avery (Jr.)
ROV	**1**	**Javon Scruggs (Jr.)**	20	Jerome Jolly Jr. (Fr.)
SS	7	Tayvion Land (So.)		Marcus Haskins (Jr.)
FS	3	Juawan Treadwell (Jr.)	43	Benjamin Alexander (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	95	Alex Barbir (Sr.)	**KR**	1	Shedro Louis (So.)
P	46	Aidan Alves (Jr.)	**PR**	5	DJ Stubbs (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Brandon Robinson, 3-2-19-0, 1 TD
Rushing: Joshua Mack, 136 att., 792 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving: DJ Stubbs, 32 rec., 401 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Ralfs Rusins, 60
Sacks: TreShaun Clark, 4.5
Interceptions: Javon Scruggs, 2

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Hugh Freeze
Record at School: 8-5 (1 year)
Career Record: 57-33 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinators: Kent Austin, Maurice Harris
Defensive Coordinator: Scott Symons
Lynchburg, VA • Williams Stadium (25,000)

KJ Jugar/Liberty Athletics

NEW MEXICO STATE Aggies

National Forecast: **128** · Projected Record: **2-10**

2020 SCHEDULE

Aug.	29	at UCLA
Sept.	3	at UAB
Sept.	12	Akron
Sept.	19	New Mexico
Sept.	26	at UTEP
Oct.	3	Texas State
Oct.	10	at Hawaii
Oct.	17	at Fresno State
Oct.	24	Louisiana
Nov.	7	at Massachusetts
Nov.	14	Texas Southern
Nov.	21	at Florida

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 2-10

Aug.	31	at Washington State	L	7-58
Sept.	7	at Alabama	L	10-62
Sept.	15	San Diego State	L	10-31
Sept.	21	at New Mexico	L	52-55
Sept.	29	Fresno State	L	17-30
Oct.	6	Liberty	L	13-20
Oct.	12	at Central Michigan	L	28-42
Oct.	26	at Georgia Southern	L	7-41
Nov.	9	at Ole Miss	L	3-41
Nov.	16	Incarnate Word	W	41-28
Nov.	23	UTEP	W	44-35
Nov.	30	at Liberty	L	28-49

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Lazarus Williams, DE, Olympia, WA*
2. Rich Hall, CB, Pompano Beach, FL*
3. Justin Stinson, CB, Chandler, AZ
4. Justice Powers, WR, Inglewood, CA*
5. Camden Chustz, OT, Denham Springs, LA*
6. Jalyne McFall, WR, Reseda, CA
7. Xavier Hinkle, CB, Liberty, MO*
8. Daemahni Williams, CB, Murrieta, CA*
9. Jonah Johnson, QB, Madera, CA*
10. Devlin Kirklin, S, Lexington, MS*

*junior college transfer

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	NATIONAL
Scoring	21.7 ppg	108
Rushing	143.5 ypg	89
Passing	217.6 ypg	79
Total	361.1 ypg	102
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	41.0 ppg	129
Rushing	259.2 ypg	129
Passing	220.8 ypg	55
Total	479.9 ypg	126
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**NATIONAL**
-15	-1.25	128

STAT CORNER

92.0%

New Mexico State allowed either a first down or TD in third- or fourth-and-2 or less situations 92.0 percent of the time, which ranked No. 129 nationally.

OFFENSE Coach Doug Martin hopes that the Aggies can get back to their version of the Air Raid offense they employed in 2017 when they had a 2-to-1 pass-run ratio during their 7–6 season, capped by an Arizona Bowl victory. That team also had a deep-ball quarterback threat — now a question mark heading into 2020. Two-year starter Josh Adkins transferred out in spring, so junior college transfer Jonah Johnson will battle redshirt freshman Westin Eget for the job. Martin compares Johnson to David Garrard, formerly of the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Despite losing its top two rushers from 2019, New Mexico State has in-state product and Michigan transfer O'Maury Samuels ready to step in. Still, Martin is hoping the run game plays more of a complementary role this season. That could increase the role of sophomore Naveon Mitchell, who has great hands out of the backfield.

Aggies WRs have limited experience. Robert Downs III is the lone returning starter, and Jared Wyatt is another veteran on the squad. Juco transfers Justice Powers and Cole Harrity, both three-star recruits, will compete for playing time.

Left tackle Sage Doxtater, a three-year starter who redshirted in 2019 with a shoulder injury, bolsters the line. Sophomore center Max Wilhite and senior right tackle Jalen Guerrero are returning starters.

DEFENSE This unit has reason for optimism. Senior defensive tackle Roy Lopez, who redshirted last season because of a lower leg injury, returns to improve a rush defense that ranked next to last in the country (259.2 ypg). End Xander Yarberough has a year under his belt after converting from tight end and should help NMSU make major gains in the sack department. NMSU is hoping juco transfer Lazarus Williams can also pressure the QB. The Aggies' 15 sacks in 2019 were 28 fewer than their 2017 total.

NMSU's defensive strength is at linebacker. Senior outside linebacker Rashie Hodge Jr. (90 tackles) and freshman All-America OLB Devin Richardson (69) were second and third, respectively, on the team in tackles in '19, and middle linebacker Trevor Brohard is now two years removed from a torn ACL.

The biggest concern is the secondary. Sophomore Jason Simmons Jr. was a part-time starter at strong safety, and senior free safety Chance Cook has a few starts under his belt. Junior college transfers Daemahni Williams and Xavier Hinkle will battle for starting positions at cornerback.

SPECIALISTS NMSU is all but starting from scratch. Junior Ethan Albertson could emerge as both punter and placekicker, although punter Josh Carlson and kicker Vince Quezada will be in the mix. Mitchell will be a factor in the return game, and junior college transfer Rich Hall will get a chance as well.

FINAL ANALYSIS Martin says the early feel of his 2020 team reminds him of his 2017 team, but he expressed a similar sentiment last season and NMSU lost its first nine games. The big difference is that the Aggies have an easier start to their 2020 schedule with UCLA, UAB and Akron taking the place of Washington State, Alabama and San Diego State. NMSU lost its spring practice to the pandemic, which could hurt — especially at QB. If a reliable starter emerges, however, NMSU should improve.

Robert Downs III

"They had a great run to a bowl a couple years ago, but they've won five games since then. It's nearly impossible to recruit consistently there."

— An opposing assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (4)				
WR	16	Jared Wyatt (Sr.)		Justice Powers (Jr.)
WR	6	Andre Bodison (Sr.)	80	Jahre Fish (Jr.)
WR		I. Garcia-Castaneda (So.)	7	Terrell Warner (Jr.)
WR	**4**	**Robert Downs III (Sr.)**		Lawrence Dixon (Jr.)
LT	**76**	**Sage Doxtater (Sr.)**	67	Marlin Johnson (Fr.)
LG		Stephawn Townsend (Jr.)	77	Carson Pharris (Fr.)
C	**71**	**Max Wilhite (So.)**	54	Isaiah Mursalat (So.)
RG	55	Garrison Tullos (Jr.)	72	Justin Segura (So.)
RT	**52**	**Jalen Guerrero (Sr.)**	73	Luteru Fedler (Fr.)
QB		Jonah Johnson (Jr.)	17	Weston Eget (Fr.)
RB	24	O'Maury Samuels (Jr.)	20	Naveon Mitchell (So.)

DEFENSE (7)				Returning Starters in Bold
DE	**88**	**Xander Yarberough (Sr.)**		Lazarus Williams (Jr.)
NT	**99**	**Myles Vigne (Sr.)**	25	Lama Lavea (Fr.)
DT	**51**	**Roy Lopez (Sr.)**	95	Jomaious Williams (Jr.)
DE	**44**	**Matthew Young (Jr.)**	31	Mike Edwards (So.)
OLB	**3**	**Devin Richardson (So.)**	41	Brennon Davis (Jr.)
MLB	80	Trevor Brohard (Jr.)	49	Nick Giacolone (Fr.)
OLB	**23**	**Rashie Hodge Jr. (Sr.)**	43	Taylor Milton (Fr.)
CB	30	Xzavier Guyton (So.)	15	Ronnie Sanders II (Fr.)
CB		Xavier Hinkle (Jr.)	14	Brandon Shivers (Fr.)
SS	**17**	**Jason Simmons Jr. (So.)**		Rich Hall (Jr.)
FS	11	Chance Cook (Sr.)	2	Chris Bell (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	84	Ethan Albertson (Jr.)	**KR**	20	Naveon Mitchell (So.)
P	35	Josh Carlson (Jr.)	**PR**		Rich Hall (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: None
Rushing: Josh Foley, 7 att., 51 yds., 0 TDs
Receiving: Robert Downs III, 22 rec., 265 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Rashie Hodge Jr., 90
Sacks: Xander Yarberough, 3.0
Interceptions: Rashie Hodge Jr., 1

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Doug Martin
Record at School: 22-63 (7 years)
Career Record: 51-116 (14 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Doug Martin
Defensive Coordinator: Frank Spaziani
Las Cruces, NM • Aggie Memorial Stadium (28,853)

New Mexico State Athletics

UMASS Minutemen

National Forecast: **130** • Projected Record: **1-11**

2020 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3	at Connecticut
Sept.	12	Troy
Sept.	19	Albany
Sept.	26	at Appalachian State
Oct.	3	at New Mexico
Oct.	10	Temple
Oct.	17	at Akron
Oct.	24	FIU
Nov.	7	New Mexico State
Nov.	14	at Auburn
Nov.	21	Army
Nov.	28	at Liberty

2019 RESULTS

RECORD: 1-11

Aug.	30	at Rutgers	L	21-48
Sept.	7	Southern Illinois	L	20-45
Sept.	14	at Charlotte	L	17-52
Sept.	21	Coastal Carolina	L	28-62
Sept.	28	Akron	W	37-29
Oct.	5	at FIU	L	0-44
Oct.	12	at Louisiana Tech	L	21-69
Oct.	26	Connecticut	L	35-56
Nov.	2	Liberty	L	21-63
Nov.	9	at Army	L	7-63
Nov.	16	at Northwestern	L	6-45
Nov.	23	BYU	L	24-56

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Aaron Beckwith, OG, Germantown, MD
2. Sammy Solomon, DT, Pittston, PA
3. Abdul Kone, LB, Maplewood, NJ
4. Onuma Dieke, WR, Atlanta, GA
5. Osei Dixon, CB, Laurel, MD
6. Hugo Klages, DE, Braunschweig, Ger.
7. Ethan Mottinger, OT, North Attleboro, MA
8. Gerrell Johnson, LB, Owings Mills, MD
9. Cody Jones, CB, Tyrone, GA
10. Dominik Behrens, OT, Easthampton, MA

2019 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	NATIONAL
Scoring	19.8 ppg	118
Rushing	124.6 ypg	114
Passing	168.5 ypg	117
Total	293.1 ypg	126
DEFENSE	**PER GAME**	**NATIONAL**
Scoring	52.7 ppg	130
Rushing	299.1 ypg	130
Passing	262.1 ypg	109
Total	561.2 ypg	130
TO MARGIN	**PER GAME**	**NATIONAL**
+1	+0.08	53

STAT CORNER

0.729

The historically bad UMass defense allowed an average of 0.729 points per play in 2019, which was the most in the country by a huge margin — 0.121 points per snap.

OFFENSE Junior college transfer Kyle Lindquist was on campus after enrolling in January and was expected to use the spring to compete for the No. 1 quarterback job with Anthony Brito, who struggled in 2019. Lindquist should still be the favorite, but he'll need to develop quickly for UMass to take significant strides on offense. Redshirt freshman Garrett Dzuro has spent a year in the program and could also compete. It would be a lot to ask freshman Will Koch to contend right away, but with things up in the air, the talented Floridian could push for time.

"We definitely have to improve at the quarterback position," says coach Walt Bell, who'll start his second season in Amherst in September.

Whoever is under center will have better, or at least more experienced, players around him than the three quarterbacks who started and struggled last year.

At tailback, juco transfer Ellis Merriweather and true freshman Jared Cole both enrolled early and impressed during strength and conditioning and will get a chance to challenge Cam Roberson.

Left tackle Larnel Coleman, who could be an NFL prospect a year from now, anchors the offensive line, which should be drastically deeper than the patchwork unit that finished the season a year ago.

No receiver caught more than 37 passes or gained more than 355 yards last year. At 6'3", 200 pounds, Dariyan Wiley, who redshirted in 2019, has an opportunity to take on a big role at receiver. True freshman Onuma Dieke has size and skill that have the coaching staff excited. Jacob Orlando, who redshirted last year, and incoming freshman Jackson Manning are both candidates to seize the vacant tight end job.

DEFENSE Cornerback Isaiah Rodgers was inarguably UMass' best player in 2019 with four interceptions. Despite his departure, cornerback might be the Minutemen defense's strongest position. Notre Dame transfer Noah Boykin steps in alongside Josh Wallace to give the Minutemen two strong coverage players with decent size. Whoever catches on fastest among a strong crop of freshman safeties could cement themselves in the job for quite a while.

Cole McCubrey anchors the linebackers behind a young defensive line that was over its head last year but returns a little more battle tested. Chinedu Ogbonna will line up in several spots in the front seven and will rush the passer from all of them.

SPECIALISTS Rodgers will be hard to replace on special teams, where he returned kicks and punts. Sophomore receiver Jermaine "O.C." Johnson Jr. has a skill set that could make him dangerous on kick returns eventually, but the unit will be green. George Georgopolous is back to punt and hold for a still-to-be-determined placekicker.

FINAL ANALYSIS Coronavirus concerns forced UMass to switch to remote learning just before the Minutemen were scheduled to start spring practice. That was a difficult blow for Bell, whose team finished 1–11 with a depleted roster in 2019. That will make fall camp especially crucial for a team expected to count on several new players to make key contributions on both sides of the ball. If they do catch on fast, it's an easier schedule ahead of them. Other than Auburn in November, UMass will face 10 Group of 5 teams or independents plus one FCS foe (Albany).

Jermaine Johnson Jr.

"They're committed to playing young guys, so they're going to take their lumps. It will be another season or two before they can really translate their recruiting to wins."

— An opposing assistant coach

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (5)				
WR	**19**	**Samuel Emilus (Jr.)**	82	Melvin Hill (Jr.)
WR	8	Dariyan Wiley (Fr.)	11	Zak Simon (Jr.)
WR	**10**	**Jermaine Johnson Jr. (So.)**		Onuma Dieke (Fr.)
LT	**59**	**Larnel Coleman (Sr.)**	**77**	**Brian Abosi (Jr.)**
LG	**68**	**Helber Fagundes (So.)**	78	Michael Sullivan (So.)
C	53	Parker Ogle (So.)	67	Dalton Tomlison (Jr.)
RG		Reggie Marks III (Jr.)	75	Xavier Graham (Fr.)
RT	69	Bryce Wade (Sr.)	77	Brian Abosi (Jr.)
TE	18	Taylor Edwards (Sr.)	87	Jacob Orlando (Fr.)
QB		Kyle Lindquist (Jr.)	12	Andrew Brito (Jr.)
RB	23	Cam Roberson (Sr.)		Ellis Merriweather (Jr.)

DEFENSE (5)				Returning Starters in Bold
DE	**97**	**Jake Byczko (Sr.)**	92	Caeleb Washington (Jr.)
NT	55	Wilson Frederic (So.)		Taishan Holmes (Jr.)
DT	42	Billy Wooden (So.)		Josh Atwood (Fr.)
DE	**17**	**Chinedu Ogbonna (Sr.)**	52	Uchenna Ezewike (So.)
OLB		Abdul Kone (Fr.)	33	Mike Ruane (Sr.)
MLB	**46**	**Cole McCubrey (Sr.)**		Gerrell Johnson (Fr.)
OLB	**32**	**Tyris Lebeau (Jr.)**	26	Xavier Steele (Jr.)
CB	4	Noah Boykin (So.)	5	Donte Lindsey (So.)
CB	**12**	**Josh Wallace (So.)**	28	Justin Lewis (So.)
S	31	Logan Darby (Sr.)	27	Elijah Johnson (So.)
S		Te'Rai Powell (Fr.)		Osei Dixon (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS					
K	98	Jeremy Martin (Sr.)	**KR**	10	Jermaine Johnson Jr. (So.)
P	88	G. Georgopoulos (Jr.)	**PR**	23	Cam Roberson (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Andrew Brito, 170-93-830-6, 7 TDs
Rushing: Cam Roberson, 116 att., 355 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Jermaine Johnson Jr., 37 rec., 272 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Cole McCubrey, 84
Sacks: Chinedu Ogbonna, 2.0
Interceptions: 4 players tied with 1

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Walt Bell
Record at School: 1-11 (1 year)
Career Record: 1-11 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Walt Bell
Defensive Coordinator: Tommy Restivo
Amherst, MA • McGuirk Alumni Stadium (17,000)

Chris Evans/UMass Athletics

Recruiting
2020 SIGNEES

Rankings provided by 247 COMPOSITE

Name	School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1. Bryan Bresee	Damascus (Damascus, MD)	DT	6-5	290	Clemson
2. Bryce Young	Mater Dei (Santa Ana, CA)	QB	5-11	183	Alabama
3. Julian Fleming	Southern Columbia (Catawissa, PA)	WR	6-2	199	Ohio State
4. Kelee Ringo	Saguaro (Scottsdale, AZ)	CB	6-2	205	Georgia
5. Arik Gilbert	Marietta (Marietta, GA)	TE	6-5	253	LSU
6. Justin Flowe	Upland (Upland, CA)	LB	6-2	225	Oregon
7. Myles Murphy	Hillgrove (Powder Springs, GA)	DE	6-5	260	Clemson
8. Jordan Burch	Hammond School (Columbia, SC)	DT	6-5	275	South Carolina
9. Paris Johnson Jr.	Princeton (Cincinnati, OH)	OT	6-7	290	Ohio State
10. DJ Uiagalelei	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	QB	6-5	246	Clemson
11. Broderick Jones	Lithonia (Lithonia, GA)	OT	6-5	298	Georgia
12. Gervon Dexter	Lake Wales (Lake Wales, FL)	DT	6-7	286	Florida
13. Noah Sewell	Orem (Orem, UT)	LB	6-2	266	Oregon
14. Elias Ricks	IMG Academy (Rancho Cucamonga, CA)	CB	6-2	192	LSU
15. Bijan Robinson	Salpointe Catholic (Tucson, AZ)	RB	6-0	200	Texas
16. Zachary Evans	North Shore (Houston, TX)	RB	5-11	200	TBD
17. Will Anderson	Dutchtown (Hampton, GA)	DE	6-3	230	Alabama
18. Jalen Carter	Apopka (Apopka, FL)	DT	6-3	301	Georgia
19. Chris Braswell	St. Frances Academy (Baltimore, MD)	DE	6-3	220	Alabama

20. Demarkcus Bowman	Lakeland (Lakeland, FL)	RB	5-9	191	Clemson
21. Jaylon Jones	Steele (Cibolo, TX)	S	6-2	190	Texas A&M
22. Drew Sanders	Ryan (Denton, TX)	ATH	6-5	232	Alabama
23. Darnell Washington	Desert Pines (Las Vegas, NV)	ATH	6-8	261	Georgia
24. Kayshon Boutte	Westgate (New Iberia, LA)	WR	6-0	180	LSU
25. Demond Demas	Tomball (Tomball, TX)	WR	6-3	182	Texas A&M
26. Trenton Simpson	Mallard Creek (Charlotte, NC)	LB	6-3	224	Clemson
27. Rakim Jarrett	St. John's (Washington, DC)	WR	6-0	208	Maryland
28. Jaxon Smith-Njigba	Rockwall (Rockwall, TX)	WR	6-1	188	Ohio State
29. Sav'ell Smalls	Kennedy Catholic (Burien, WA)	DE	6-4	244	Washington
30. Dontae Manning	Raytown (Kansas City, MO)	CB	6-0	185	Oregon
31. Michael Mayer	Covington Catholic (Alexandria, KY)	TE	6-4	232	Notre Dame
32. Mekhail Sherman	St. John's (Washington, DC)	LB	6-3	234	Georgia
33. Demonte Capehart	IMG Academy (Hartsville, SC)	DT	6-5	295	Clemson
34. Demorie Tate	Freedom (Orlando, FL)	CB	6-1	189	Florida State
35. Curtis Jacobs	McDonogh School (Owings Mills, MD)	LB	6-2	220	Penn State
36. Jordan Johnson	DeSmet (St. Louis, MO)	WR	6-1	182	Notre Dame
37. Tate Ratledge	Darlington School (Rome, GA)	OT	6-6	322	Georgia
38. Demouy Kennedy	Theodore (Theodore, AL)	LB	6-3	215	Alabama
39. Tank Bigsby	Callaway (Hogansville, GA)	RB	6-0	210	Auburn
40. Jaquelin Roy	University Lab (Baton Rouge, LA)	DT	6-4	289	LSU
41. CJ Stroud	Rancho Cucamonga (Rancho Cucamonga, CA)	QB	6-3	194	Ohio State
42. MarShawn Lloyd	DeMatha Catholic (Hyattsville, MD)	RB	5-9	211	South Carolina
43. Desmond Evans	Lee County (Sanford, NC)	DE	6-6	240	North Carolina
44. Avantae Williams	Deland (Deland, FL)	S	5-11	170	Miami (Fla.)
45. Gary Bryant Jr.	Centennial (Corona, CA)	WR	5-11	164	USC
46. Jase McClellan	Aledo (Aledo, TX)	RB	5-11	202	Alabama
47. Turner Corcoran	Lawrence Free State (Lawrence, KS)	OT	6-6	280	Nebraska
48. Donell Harris	Gulliver Prep (Miami, FL)	DE	6-4	216	Texas A&M
49. Walker Parks	Frederick Douglass (Lexington, KY)	OT	6-5	275	Clemson
50. Clark Phillips III	La Habra (La Habra, CA)	CB	5-11	178	Utah
51. Justin Rogers	Oak Park (Oak Park, MI)	DT	6-3	311	Kentucky
52. Fred Davis II	Trinity Christian Aca. (Jacksonville, FL)	CB	6-0	192	Clemson
53. Kendall Milton	Buchanan (Clovis, CA)	RB	6-2	215	Georgia
54. Marcus Rosemy	St. Thomas Aquinas (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	WR	6-2	195	Georgia
55. Timothy Smith	Sebastian River (Sebastian, FL)	DT	6-4	320	Alabama
56. Phillip Webb	Lanier (Buford, GA)	LB	6-4	224	LSU
57. Hudson Card	Lake Travis (Austin, TX)	QB	6-3	179	Texas
58. Arian Smith	Lakeland (Lakeland, FL)	WR	6-1	170	Georgia
59. Sedrick Van Pran	Warren Easton (New Orleans, LA)	C	6-4	305	Georgia
60. Brian Branch	Sandy Creek (Tyrone, GA)	S	5-11	185	Alabama
61. McKinnley Jackson	George County (Lucedale, MS)	DT	6-2	327	Texas A&M
62. Alfred Collins	Cedar Creek (Bastrop, TX)	DE	6-5	284	Texas
63. Derek Wingo	St. Thomas Aquinas (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	LB	6-2	210	Florida
64. Quandarrius Robinson	Jackson-Olin (Birmingham, AL)	LB	6-5	217	Alabama
65. Gee Scott Jr.	Eastside Catholic (Sammamish, WA)	WR	6-3	207	Ohio State
66. Xzavier Henderson	Columbus (Miami, FL)	WR	6-4	180	Florida
67. Jalen McMillan	San Joaquin Memorial (Fresno, CA)	WR	6-2	182	Washington
68. E.J. Williams	Central (Phenix City, AL)	WR	6-3	188	Clemson
69. Chris Tyree	Thomas Dale (Chester, VA)	RB	5-10	179	Notre Dame
70. Quentin Johnston	Temple (Temple, TX)	WR	6-4	180	TCU
71. Theo Johnson	Holy Names High School (Windsor, ON)	TE	6-6	242	Penn State
72. Myles Hinton	Greater Atlanta Christian (Norcross, GA)	OT	6-6	308	Stanford
73. Ja'Quinden Jackson	Duncanville (Duncanville, TX)	QB	6-2	219	Texas

Bresee: Toni L. Sandys/The Washington Post via Getty; Young: Jevone Moore/Icon via AP

Name	School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
74. Cody Simon	St. Peter's Prep (Jersey City, NJ)	LB	6-1	218	Ohio State
75. Jahmyr Gibbs	Dalton (Dalton, GA)	RB	5-9	191	Georgia Tech
76. Roydell Williams	Hueytown (Hueytown, AL)	RB	5-10	202	Alabama
77. Zykeivous Walker	Schley County (Ellaville, GA)	DE	6-4	260	Auburn
78. Antonio Johnson	East St. Louis (East St. Louis, IL)	S	6-3	182	Texas A&M
79. Jordan Toles	St. Frances Academy (Baltimore, MD)	S	6-2	190	LSU
80. Keshawn Lawrence	Ensworth (Nashville, TN)	S	6-2	202	Tennessee
81. Jermaine Burton	Calabasas (Calabasas, CA)	WR	6-1	190	Georgia
82. Trey Wedig	Kettle Moraine (Wales, WI)	OT	6-8	320	Wisconsin
83. BJ Ojulari	Marietta (Marietta, GA)	DE	6-3	224	LSU
84. Chantz Williams	Oakleaf (Orange Park, FL)	DE	6-4	238	Miami (Fla.)
85. Luke Doty	Myrtle Beach (Myrtle Beach, SC)	QB	6-1	185	South Carolina
86. Jahari Rogers	Arlington (Arlington, TX)	CB	6-0	170	Florida
87. Andrew Gentry	Columbine (Littleton, CO)	OT	6-8	310	Virginia
88. Antonio Doyle	Lutheran North (St. Louis, MO)	LB	6-3	229	Texas A&M
89. Nate Anderson	Reedy (Frisco, TX)	OG	6-5	262	Oklahoma
90. Omari Thomas	Briarcrest Christian (Memphis, TN)	DT	6-4	319	Tennessee
91. Mookie Cooper	Pattonville (St. Louis, MO)	WR	5-9	193	Ohio State
92. Andrew Raym	Broken Arrow (Broken Arrow, OK)	OG	6-5	285	Oklahoma
93. Tre Williams	St. John's (Washington, DC)	DT	6-3	306	Clemson
94. Josh Downs	North Gwinnett (Suwanee, GA)	WR	5-10	165	North Carolina
95. Jacobian Guillory	Alexandria (Alexandria, LA)	DT	6-2	331	LSU
96. Antoine Sampah	Woodbridge (Woodbridge, VA)	LB	6-3	220	LSU
97. Wesley Steiner	Houston County (Warner Robins, GA)	LB	6-0	220	Auburn
98. Harrison Bailey	Marietta (Marietta, GA)	QB	6-5	211	Tennessee

99. Tosh Baker	Pinnacle (Phoenix, AZ)	OT	6-7	271	Notre Dame
100. Jay Hardy	McCallie School (Chattanooga, TN)	DT	6-4	280	Auburn
101. A.J. Henning	Lincoln-Way East (Frankfort, IL)	WR	5-10	183	Michigan
102. Paul Tchio	Milton (Alpharetta, GA)	OG	6-5	299	Clemson
103. Jack Nelson	Stoughton (Stoughton, WI)	OT	6-7	273	Wisconsin
104. Jalen Kimber	Mansfield Timberview (Arlington, TX)	CB	6-0	170	Georgia
105. Jaylan Knighton	Deerfield Beach (Deerfield Beach, FL)	RB	5-9	194	Miami (Fla.)
106. Garrett Hayes	Athens (Athens, TX)	OG	6-5	318	TCU
107. Luke Wypler	St. Joseph Regional (Montvale, NJ)	C	6-2	285	Ohio State
108. Marcus Dumervil	St. Thomas Aquinas (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	OT	6-5	305	LSU
109. EJ Smith	Jesuit (Dallas, TX)	RB	5-11	199	Stanford
110. Kobe Hudson	Troup County (Lagrange, GA)	WR	6-1	186	Auburn
111. Zavier Betts	Bellevue West (Bellevue, NE)	WR	6-2	189	Nebraska
112. Peter Skoronski	Maine South (Park Ridge, IL)	C	6-4	275	Northwestern
113. Myles Murao	Mater Dei (Santa Ana, CA)	C	6-2	312	Washington
114. Don Chaney Jr.	Belen Jesuit Prep (Miami, FL)	RB	5-11	203	Miami (Fla.)
115. Johnny Wilson	Calabasas (Calabasas, CA)	WR	6-6	224	Arizona State
116. Malachi Wideman	Venice (Venice, FL)	WR	6-5	197	Tennessee
117. Tyler Baron	Knoxville Catholic (Knoxville, TN)	DE	6-5	256	Tennessee
118. Chris Morris	West Memphis (West Memphis, AR)	OG	6-4	287	Texas A&M
119. Jordan Botelho	St. Louis (Honolulu, HI)	LB	6-3	230	Notre Dame
120. Ethan Garbers	Corona Del Mar (Newport Beach, CA)	QB	6-3	193	Washington
121. Vernon Broughton	Cy Ridge (Houston, TX)	DT	6-5	286	Texas
122. Braiden McGregor	Port Huron Northern (Port Huron, MI)	DE	6-6	260	Michigan
123. Reggie Grimes	Ravenwood (Brentwood, TN)	DE	6-4	242	Oklahoma
124. Daniyel Ngata	Folsom (Folsom, CA)	RB	5-9	180	Arizona State
125. John Humphreys	Corona Del Mar (Newport Beach, CA)	WR	6-5	205	Stanford
126. Prince Dorbah	Highland Park (Dallas, TX)	LB	6-3	208	Texas
127. Jalen Rivers	Oakleaf (Orange Park, FL)	OT	6-6	331	Miami (Fla.)
128. Blake Corum	St. Frances Academy (Laurel, MD)	RB	5-8	193	Michigan
129. Kevontre Bradford	Lancaster (Lancaster, TX)	RB	5-11	193	LSU
130. Haynes King	Longview (Longview, TX)	QB	6-3	189	Texas A&M
131. Ze'Vian Capers	Denmark (Alpharetta, GA)	WR	6-4	195	Auburn
132. Keyshawn Greene	Wakulla (Crawfordville, FL)	LB	6-3	195	Nebraska
133. Seth McGowan	Poteet (Mesquite, TX)	RB	6-0	215	Oklahoma
134. Enzo Jennings	Oak Park (Oak Park, MI)	S	6-1	185	Penn State
135. Jalen Berger	Don Bosco Prep (Ramsey, NJ)	RB	6-0	205	Wisconsin
136. Devon Achane	Fort Bend Marshall (Missouri City, TX)	RB	5-9	170	Texas A&M
137. Jo'Quavious Marks	Carver (Atlanta, GA)	RB	5-10	190	Mississippi St.
138. Xavion Alford	Shadow Creek (Pearland, TX)	S	6-0	183	Texas
139. Elijhah Badger	Folsom (Sacramento, CA)	ATH	6-2	195	Arizona State
140. Chad Lindberg	Clear Creek (League City, TX)	OT	6-7	327	Georgia
141. Josh White	Cy Creek (Houston, TX)	LB	6-1	200	LSU
142. Nick Herbig	St. Louis School (Honolulu, HI)	LB	6-2	215	Wisconsin
143. Thaiu Jones-Bell	Miami Carol City (Hallandale, FL)	WR	5-11	187	Alabama
144. Kitan Crawford	John Tyler (Tyler, TX)	CB	5-11	200	Texas
145. Michael Carmody	Mars Area (Mars, PA)	OT	6-5	283	Notre Dame
146. Jay Butterfield	Liberty (Brentwood, CA)	QB	6-6	202	Oregon
147. Mitchell Mayes	Leesville Road (Raleigh, NC)	OG	6-4	306	Clemson
148. Myles Murphy	Dudley (Greensboro, NC)	DE	6-4	280	North Carolina
149. Ja'Qurious Conley	Northside (Jacksonville, NC)	S	6-2	203	North Carolina
150. Kedrick Bingley-Jones	Providence Day School (Charlotte, NC)	DT	6-5	266	North Carolina

Toles: Gregory Payan via AP; Grimes: Mark LoMoglio/Icon via AP

Name	School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
151. Kalel Mullings	Milton Academy (Boston, MA)	LB	6-1	220	Michigan
152. Fadil Diggs	Woodrow Wilson (Camden, NJ)	DE	6-5	230	Texas A&M
153. Darrion Henry	Princeton (Cincinnati, OH)	DT	6-5	279	Ohio State
154. Jaquavion Fraziars	Dunnellon (Dunnellon, FL)	WR	6-4	194	Florida
155. Jackson Bratton	Muscle Shoals (Muscle Shoals, AL)	LB	6-3	233	Alabama
156. Issiah Walker Jr.	Norland (Miami, FL)	OT	6-4	309	Florida
157. LV Bunkley-Shelton	Junipero Serra (Gardena, CA)	WR	6-0	180	Arizona State
158. Muhsin Muhammad III	Myers Park (Charlotte, NC)	WR	6-0	185	Texas A&M
159. Rylie Mills	Lake Forest (Lake Forest, IL)	DE	6-5	275	Notre Dame
160. Edgerrin Cooper	Covington (Covington, LA)	LB	6-2	205	Texas A&M
161. Andre Seldon	Belleville (Belleville, MI)	CB	5-8	154	Michigan
162. Jacolbe Cowan	Providence Day School (Charlotte, NC)	DT	6-5	262	Ohio State
163. Shane Illingworth	Norco (Norco, CA)	QB	6-7	234	Oklahoma St.
164. Kourt Williams	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	LB	6-1	216	Ohio State
165. Jordan Morant	Bergen Catholic (Oradell, NJ)	S	5-11	212	Michigan
166. J.J. Evans	Montevallo (Montevallo, AL)	WR	6-2	185	Auburn
167. Lathan Ransom	Salpointe Catholic (Tucson, AZ)	S	6-1	193	Ohio State
168. Marvin Mims	Lone Star (Frisco, TX)	WR	6-0	173	Oklahoma
169. Ladarius Tennison	Rockledge (SW Brevard County, FL)	ATH	5-9	193	Auburn
170. Roger Rosengarten	Valor Christian (Littleton, CO)	OT	6-5	258	Washington
171. Ashaad Clayton	Warren Easton (New Orleans, LA)	RB	6-0	200	Colorado
172. Myles Slusher	Broken Arrow (Broken Arrow, OK)	S	6-0	181	Arkansas
173. Maliq Carr	Oak Park (Oak Park, MI)	TE	6-4	230	Purdue
174. Ethan Pouncey	Winter Park (Winter Park, FL)	CB	6-1	160	Florida
175. Van Fillinger	Corner Canyon (Draper, UT)	DE	6-4	250	Utah
176. Evan Prater	Wyoming (Cincinnati, OH)	QB	6-5	190	Cincinnati
177. Anton Harrison	Archbishop Carroll (Washington, DC)	OT	6-5	310	Oklahoma
178. Michael Redding III	IMG Academy (Pensacola, FL)	WR	6-1	195	Miami (Fla.)
179. Bryan Robinson	Palm Beach Central (W. Palm Beach, FL)	WR	6-1	185	Florida State
180. Major Burns	Madison Prep Academy (Baton Rouge, LA)	S	6-2	176	Georgia
181. Jerrin Thompson	Lufkin (Lufkin, TX)	S	6-1	183	Texas
182. Antwaun Powell	Indian River (Portsmouth, VA)	DE	6-3	234	Florida
183. Kristian Story	Lanett (Lanett, AL)	ATH	6-1	210	Alabama
184. Emmanuel Forbes	Grenada (Grenada, MS)	CB	6-1	171	Mississippi St.
185. Ozzy Trapilo	Boston College (Boston, MA)	OT	6-7	275	Boston College
186. Caziah Holmes	Cocoa (Cocoa, FL)	RB	6-0	179	Penn State
187. Jacobe Covington	Saguaro (Scottsdale, AZ)	S	6-1	196	Washington
188. Eric Reed	Calvary Baptist Academy (Shreveport, LA)	S	6-1	197	Auburn
189. Darion Green-Warren	Narbonne (Harbor City, CA)	CB	6-0	187	Michigan
190. Kaden Johnson	Minnehaha Academy (Minneapolis, MN)	LB	6-2	235	Wisconsin

191. Chubba Purdy	Perry (Gilbert, AZ)	QB	6-2	210	Florida State
192. Ayden Hector	Eastside Catholic (Sammamish, WA)	CB	6-0	198	Stanford
193. Damian Sellers	Saguaro (Scottsdale, AZ)	LB	6-2	224	UCLA
194. Jake Majors	Prosper (Prosper, TX)	C	6-4	283	Texas
195. Luke Hill	St. Frances Academy (Washington, DC)	CB	5-11	180	Oregon
196. Jalin Hyatt	Dutch Fork (Irmo, SC)	WR	6-0	164	Tennessee
197. Jah-Marien Latham	Pickens County (Reform, AL)	DT	6-3	280	Alabama
198. Chris Thompson Jr.	Duncanville (Duncanville, TX)	S	6-2	199	Auburn
199. Javon Baker	McEachern (Powder Springs, GA)	WR	6-1	196	Alabama
200. Malik Hornsby	Fort Bend Marshall (Missouri City, TX)	QB	6-2	175	Arkansas
201. Anthony Richardson	Eastside (Gainesville, FL)	QB	6-4	224	Florida
202. Ryan Watts	Little Elm (Little Elm, TX)	S	6-3	187	Ohio State
203. Cole Brevard	Carmel (Carmel, IN)	DT	6-3	305	Penn State
204. KeAndre Lambert	Maury (Norfolk, VA)	WR	6-1	176	Penn State
205. Aaryn Parks	National Christian Aca. (Fort Washington, MD)	OG	6-4	320	Oklahoma
206. Geirean Hatchett	Ferndale (Ferndale, WA)	OG	6-4	279	Washington
207. Jalin Conyers	Gruver (Gruver, TX)	TE	6-4	220	Oklahoma
208. Jimmy Calloway	Morrow (Morrow, GA)	WR	6-0	207	Tennessee
209. Malachi Moore	Hewitt-Trussville (Trussville, AL)	S	6-0	180	Alabama
210. Porter Rooks	Myers Park (Charlotte, NC)	WR	6-1	191	NC State
211. Darin Turner	Memphis Central (Memphis, TN)	WR	6-3	206	Arkansas
212. Len'Neth Whitehead	Athens Academy (Athens, GA)	LB	6-2	230	Tennessee
213. Bryson Washington	C.E. King (Houston, TX)	S	6-2	196	Oklahoma
214. Alex Huntley	Hammond School (Columbia, SC)	DT	6-3	279	South Carolina
215. Sergio Allen	Peach County (Fort Valley, GA)	LB	6-1	217	Clemson
216. Dominic Bailey	St. Frances Academy (Baltimore, MD)	DT	6-3	293	Tennessee
217. RJ Mickens	Southlake Carroll (Southlake, TX)	S	6-1	197	Clemson
218. Jadarius Green-McKnight	Dunbar (Fort Myers, FL)	S	5-11	204	Florida State
219. Rome Odunze	Bishop Gorman (Las Vegas, NV)	WR	6-3	205	Washington
220. Tyler Van Dyke	Suffield Academy (Glastonbury, CT)	QB	6-4	212	Miami (Fla.)
221. Jeff Sims	Sandalwood (Jacksonville, FL)	QB	6-3	205	Georgia Tech
222. Demon Clowney	St. Frances Academy (Baltimore, MD)	DE	6-4	225	Ole Miss
223. Jeremiah Pegues	Oxford (Oxford, MS)	ATH	6-2	285	Auburn
224. Henry Parrish	Columbus (Miami, FL)	RB	5-10	183	Ole Miss
225. Drew Pyne	New Canaan (New Canaan, CT)	QB	6-0	194	Notre Dame
226. Johnnie Brown	Sebring (Tampa, FL)	DT	6-2	250	Florida
227. Kris Hutson	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	WR	5-11	175	Oregon
228. Ty'kieast Crawford	Carthage (Carthage, TX)	OT	6-5	335	Kilgore College
229. Akinola Ogunbiyi	Kempner (Sugar Land, TX)	OG	6-4	331	Texas A&M
230. Lawrance Toafili	Pinellas Park (Largo, FL)	RB	6-0	180	Florida State

Redding: Mike Janes/Four Seam Images via AP; Clowney: Gregory Payan via AP

Name	School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
231. Jalen Harrell	Champagnat Catholic (Hialeah, FL)	S	6-2	180	Miami (Fla.)
232. Quincy Brown	Destrehan (Destrehan, LA)	WR	6-4	175	Copiah-Lincoln
233. Traeshon Holden	Narbonne (Harbor City, CA)	WR	6-3	195	Alabama
234. Cameron Roseman-Sinclair	Myers Park (Charlotte, NC)	S	6-0	194	North Carolina
235. Kevin Bauman	Red Bank Catholic (Red Bank, NJ)	TE	6-5	238	Notre Dame
236. Logan Jones	Lewis Central (Council Bluffs, IA)	DT	6-3	255	Iowa
237. Mohamed Kaba	Clinton (Clinton, NC)	LB	6-2	212	South Carolina
238. Coziah Izzard	DeMatha Catholic (Laurel, MD)	DT	6-3	281	Penn State
239. Stephen Dix Jr.	Dr. Phillips (Orlando, FL)	LB	6-2	210	Florida State
240. Troy Omeire	Fort Bend Austin (Sugar Land, TX)	WR	6-4	206	Texas
241. Patrick Jenkins	John Ehret (Marrero, LA)	DT	6-2	285	TCU
242. Princely Umanmielen	Manor (Manor, TX)	DE	6-4	249	Florida
243. Davin Vann	Cary (Cary, NC)	DT	6-2	273	NC State
244. Makari Paige	West Bloomfield (West Bloomfield, MI)	S	6-3	182	Michigan
245. Desmond Tisdol	Wilcox County (Rochelle, GA)	LB	6-0	215	Auburn
246. Morven Joseph	Lake Gibson (Lakeland, FL)	DE	6-2	220	Tennessee
247. Michael Drennen II	Dublin Coffman (Dublin, OH)	RB	5-11	196	Kentucky
248. Nazir Stackhouse	Columbia (Decatur, GA)	DT	6-4	306	Georgia
249. Carson Beck	Mandarin (Jacksonville, FL)	QB	6-5	226	Georgia
250. Jordan Banks	Narbonne (Harbor City, CA)	LB	6-1	228	Arizona State
251. Josaih Hayes	Horn Lake (Horn Lake, MS)	DT	6-2	308	Kentucky
252. Max Johnson	Oconee County (Watkinsville, GA)	QB	6-5	216	LSU
253. Ruben Hyppolite II	McArthur (Hollywood, FL)	LB	6-0	225	Maryland
254. Miles Brooks	Trinity Christian Academy (Jacksonville, FL)	CB	6-2	185	Georgia Tech
255. RJ Moten	Delran (Delran, NJ)	S	6-0	200	Michigan
256. Eric Shaw	Reeltown (Notasulga, AL)	ATH	6-4	205	South Carolina
257. Parker McQuarrie	St. Paul's School (Weare, NH)	QB	6-7	220	UCLA
258. Marcus Fleming	Northwestern (Miami, FL)	WR	5-10	160	Nebraska
259. Kevin Swint	Carrollton (Carrollton, GA)	LB	6-3	243	Clemson
260. Jaylen Garth	Port Neches-Groves (Port Neches, TX)	OT	6-5	285	Texas
261. Michael Alaimo	St. Joseph Regional (Montvale, NJ)	QB	6-5	214	Purdue
262. Jacolby Criswell	Morrilton (Morrilton, AR)	QB	6-1	218	North Carolina
263. Keontae Jenkins	Frank W. Cox (Virginia Beach, VA)	CB	5-10	160	TCU
264. Lideatrick Griffin	Philadelphia (Philadelphia, MS)	ATH	5-10	170	Mississippi St.
265. Zak Zinter	Buckingham Browne & Nichols (N. Andover, MA)	OG	6-6	300	Michigan
266. Henry Gray	Miami Central (Miami, FL)	S	6-0	172	Nebraska
267. Xavier Carlton	Juan Diego (Draper, UT)	DE	6-7	262	Utah
268. Marc Britt	Miami Christian School (Miami, FL)	ATH	6-2	190	Ole Miss
269. Eric Taylor	Hewitt-Trussville (Trussville, AL)	DT	6-4	280	LSU
270. Joshua Braun	Suwannee (Live Oak, FL)	OT	6-6	335	Florida
271. Tirek Murphy	Christ the King Regional (Middle Village, NY)	RB	5-11	220	Purdue
272. Jaiden Francois	South Dade (Homestead, FL)	S	6-0	184	Nebraska
273. Samuel Anaele	McDougal Tech Institute (Deerfield Beach, FL)	DE	6-4	243	Kentucky
274. Jordan Addison	Tuscarora (Frederick, MD)	ATH	5-11	161	Pittsburgh
275. David Vincent-Okoli	The Bullis School (Gaithersburg, MD)	CB	5-11	176	West Virginia
276. Parker Washington	Fort Bend Travis (Richmond, TX)	WR	5-10	201	Penn State
277. Logan Parr	O'Connor (Helotes, TX)	OG	6-4	280	Texas
278. Dwight McGlothern	Klein Oak (Spring, TX)	CB	6-2	180	LSU
279. Malcolm Greene	Highland Springs (Highland Springs, VA)	S	5-10	180	Clemson
280. Daijun Edwards	Colquitt County (Moultrie, GA)	RB	5-10	201	Georgia
281. Keyvone Lee	American Collegiate Aca. (Clearwater, FL)	RB	6-0	210	Penn State
282. Kevin Pyne	Milford (Millis, MA)	OT	6-7	275	Boston College
283. Levi Rogers	Woodinville (Woodinville, WA)	OG	6-5	270	Stanford
284. Sam Adams II	Eastside Catholic (Sammamish, WA)	ATH	6-1	194	Washington
285. DeaMonte Trayanum	Archbishop Hoban (Akron, OH)	RB	5-11	220	Arizona State
286. Bryn Tucker	Knoxville Catholic (Knoxville, TN)	OG	6-5	305	Clemson
287. Ja'Khi Douglas	Terrebonne (Houma, LA)	WR	5-9	187	Florida State
288. Hunter Dekkers	West Sioux (Hawarden, IA)	QB	6-3	225	Iowa State
289. Jason Harris	Higley (Gilbert, AZ)	DE	6-7	220	Colorado
290. Loic Fouonji	Lee (Midland, TX)	WR	6-4	194	Texas Tech
291. Robby Ashford	Hoover (Hoover, AL)	QB	6-4	219	Oregon
292. Michael Henderson	Ranchview (Carrollton, TX)	ATH	6-2	234	Oklahoma
293. Jaylen Harrell	Berkeley Prep (Tampa, FL)	DE	6-4	235	Michigan
294. Cooper Mays	Knoxville Catholic (Knoxville, TN)	C	6-3	295	Tennessee
295. Jahquez Robinson	Sandalwood (Jacksonville, FL)	CB	6-2	190	Alabama
296. Jaden Dottin	Suffield Academy (Suffield, CT)	WR	6-3	170	Penn State
297. Justin Robinson	Eagle's Landing Christian (McDonough, GA)	WR	6-4	200	Georgia
298. Koy Moore	Archbishop Rummel (Metairie, LA)	WR	6-1	172	LSU
299. Osman Savage	St. Frances Academy (Baltimore, MD)	LB	6-2	225	Michigan
300. Bryson Eason	Whitehaven (Memphis, TN)	LB	6-2	270	Tennessee

Dix: Phelan M. Ebenhack via AP; Ashford: Mark LoMoglio/Icon via AP

Quarterbacks

1. Bryce Young	Mater Dei (Santa Ana, CA)	QB	5-11	183	Alabama
2. DJ Uiagalelei	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	QB	6-5	246	Clemson
3. CJ Stroud	Rancho Cucamonga (Rancho Cucamonga, CA)	QB	6-3	194	Ohio State
4. Hudson Card	Lake Travis (Austin, TX)	QB	6-3	179	Texas
5. Ja'Quinden Jackson	Duncanville (Duncanville, TX)	QB	6-2	219	Texas
6. Luke Doty	Myrtle Beach (Myrtle Beach, SC)	QB	6-1	185	South Carolina
7. Harrison Bailey	Marietta (Marietta, GA)	QB	6-5	211	Tennessee
8. Ethan Garbers	Corona Del Mar (Newport Beach, CA)	QB	6-3	193	Washington
9. Haynes King	Longview (Longview, TX)	QB	6-3	189	Texas A&M
10. Jay Butterfield	Liberty (Brentwood, CA)	QB	6-6	202	Oregon
11. Shane Illingworth	Norco (Norco, CA)	QB	6-7	234	Oklahoma St.
12. Evan Prater	Wyoming (Cincinnati, OH)	QB	6-5	190	Cincinnati
13. Chubba Purdy	Perry (Gilbert, AZ)	QB	6-2	210	Florida State
14. Malik Hornsby	Fort Bend Marshall (Missouri City, TX)	QB	6-2	175	Arkansas
15. Anthony Richardson	Eastside (Gainesville, FL)	QB	6-4	224	Florida
16. Tyler Van Dyke	Suffield Academy (Glastonbury, CT)	QB	6-4	212	Miami (Fla.)
17. Jeff Sims	Sandalwood (Jacksonville, FL)	QB	6-3	205	Georgia Tech
18. Drew Pyne	New Canaan (New Canaan, CT)	QB	6-0	194	Notre Dame
19. Carson Beck	Mandarin (Jacksonville, FL)	QB	6-5	226	Georgia
20. Max Johnson	Oconee County (Watkinsville, GA)	QB	6-5	216	LSU
21. Parker McQuarrie	St. Paul's School (Weare, NH)	QB	6-7	220	UCLA
22. Michael Alaimo	St. Joseph Regional (Montvale, NJ)	QB	6-5	214	Purdue
23. Jacolby Criswell	Morrilton (Morrilton, AR)	QB	6-1	218	North Carolina
24. Hunter Dekkers	West Sioux (Hawarden, IA)	QB	6-3	225	Iowa State
25. Robby Ashford	Hoover (Hoover, AL)	QB	6-4	219	Oregon
26. Logan Smothers	Muscle Shoals (Athens, AL)	QB	6-2	190	Nebraska
27. Jack Miller	Chaparral (Scottsdale, AZ)	QB	6-4	210	Ohio State
28. Mason Garcia	Carolina Forest (Myrtle Beach, SC)	QB	6-4	218	East Carolina
29. Jalen Suggs	Minnehaha Academy (Minneapolis, MN)	QB	6-5	200	Gonzaga (basketball)
30. Micah Bowens	Bishop Gorman (Las Vegas, NV)	QB	6-0	195	Penn State
31. Brendon Lewis	Melissa (Melissa, TX)	QB	6-3	209	Colorado
32. Chandler Morris	Highland Park (Dallas, TX)	QB	5-11	178	Oklahoma
33. Deuce Hogan	Faith Christian (Grapevine, TX)	QB	6-4	197	Iowa
34. Jayden de Laura	St. Louis (Honolulu, HI)	QB	6-1	190	Wash. State
35. JD Johnson	Pinnacle (Phoenix, AZ)	QB	6-4	215	Retired
36. Beau Allen	Lexington Catholic (Lexington, KY)	QB	6-2	203	Kentucky
37. TJ Finley	Ponchatoula (Ponchatoula, LA)	QB	6-6	250	LSU
38. Jaden Casey	Calabasas (Calabasas, CA)	QB	6-1	185	California
39. Ken Seals	Weatherford (Weatherford, TX)	QB	6-3	203	Vanderbilt
40. Michael Wright	Woodward Academy (Atlanta, GA)	QB	6-4	185	Vanderbilt
41. Aidan Atkinson	Fairview (Boulder, CO)	QB	6-3	212	n/a
42. Luca Diamont	Venice (Los Angeles, CA)	QB	6-3	185	Duke
43. Garrett Greene	Lawton Chiles (Tallahassee, FL)	QB	6-0	181	West Virginia
44. Aidan Bouman	Buffalo Senior (Buffalo, MN)	QB	6-6	215	Iowa State
45. Mitch Griffis	Broad Run (Ashburn, VA)	QB	5-11	183	Wake Forest
46. Will Rogers	Brandon (Brandon, MS)	QB	6-2	200	Miss. State
47. Tate Rodemaker	Valdosta (Valdosta, GA)	QB	6-4	190	Florida State
48. Wilson Long	Regents School (Austin, TX)	QB	6-0	180	Princeton
49. Tee Webb	Cartersville (Cartersville, GA)	QB	6-4	185	Louisville
50. Ben Finley	Paradise Valley (Phoenix, AZ)	QB	6-3	195	NC State

Uiagalelei: Kirby Lee via AP; Lloyd: Josh Holmberg/Icon via AP

Running Backs

1. Bijan Robinson	Salpointe Catholic (Tucson, AZ)	RB	6-0	200	Texas
2. Zachary Evans	North Shore (Houston, TX)	RB	5-11	200	TBD
3. Demarkcus Bowman	Lakeland (Lakeland, FL)	RB	5-9	191	Clemson
4. Tank Bigsby	Callaway (Hogansville, GA)	RB	6-0	210	Auburn
5. MarShawn Lloyd	DeMatha Catholic (Hyattsville, MD)	RB	5-9	211	South Carolina
6. Jase McClellan	Aledo (Aledo, TX)	RB	5-11	202	Alabama
7. Kendall Milton	Buchanan (Clovis, CA)	RB	6-2	215	Georgia
8. Chris Tyree	Thomas Dale (Chester, VA)	RB	5-10	179	Notre Dame
9. Jahmyr Gibbs	Dalton (Dalton, GA)	RB	5-9	191	Georgia Tech
10. Roydell Williams	Hueytown (Hueytown, AL)	RB	5-10	202	Alabama
11. Jaylan Knighton	Deerfield Beach (Deerfield Beach, FL)	RB	5-9	194	Miami (Fla.)
12. EJ Smith	Jesuit (Dallas, TX)	RB	5-11	199	Stanford
13. Don Chaney Jr.	Belen Jesuit Prep (Miami, FL)	RB	5-11	203	Miami (Fla.)
14. Daniyel Ngata	Folsom (Folsom, CA)	RB	5-9	180	Arizona State
15. Blake Corum	St. Frances Academy (Laurel, MD)	RB	5-8	193	Michigan
16. Kevontre Bradford	Lancaster (Lancaster, TX)	RB	5-11	193	LSU
17. Seth McGowan	Poteet (Mesquite, TX)	RB	6-0	215	Oklahoma
18. Jalen Berger	Don Bosco Prep (Ramsey, NJ)	RB	6-0	205	Wisconsin
19. Devon Achane	Fort Bend Marshall (Missouri City, TX)	RB	5-9	170	Texas A&M
20. Jo'Quavious Marks	Carver (Atlanta, GA)	RB	5-10	190	Mississippi St.
21. Ashaad Clayton	Warren Easton (New Orleans, LA)	RB	6-0	200	Colorado
22. Caziah Holmes	Cocoa (Cocoa, FL)	RB	6-0	179	Penn State
23. Henry Parrish	Columbus (Miami, FL)	RB	5-10	183	Ole Miss
24. Lawrence Toafili	Pinellas Park (Largo, FL)	RB	6-0	180	Florida State
25. Michael Drennen II	Dublin Coffman (Dublin, OH)	RB	5-11	196	Kentucky

26. Tirek Murphy	Christ the King Reg. (Middle Village, NY)	RB	5-11	220	Purdue
27. Daijun Edwards	Colquitt County (Moultrie, GA)	RB	5-10	201	Georgia
28. Keyvone Lee	American Coll. Academy (Clearwater, FL)	RB	6-0	210	Penn State
29. DeaMonte Trayanum	Archbishop Hoban (Akron, OH)	RB	5-11	220	Arizona State
30. Sevion Morrison	Edison (Tulsa, OK)	RB	6-0	196	Nebraska
31. Taye McWilliams	Lamar Consolidated (Rosenberg, TX)	RB	6-2	202	Baylor
32. Peny Boone	Martin Luther King (Detroit, MI)	RB	6-2	225	Maryland
33. Trey Benson	St. Joseph (Greenville, MS)	RB	6-0	209	Oregon
34. Jutahn McClain	Fairfield (Fairfield, OH)	RB	5-10	180	Kentucky
35. Ky Thomas	Topeka (Topeka, KS)	RB	5-11	205	Minnesota
36. Kyle Edwards	Destrehan (Destrehan, LA)	RB	6-0	210	Alabama
37. Israel Abanikanda	Abraham Lincoln (Brooklyn, NY)	RB	5-11	197	Pittsburgh
38. Reggie Love	Trinity Catholic (St. Louis, MO)	RB	5-10	195	Illinois
39. Ty Jordan	West Mesquite (Mesquite, TX)	RB	5-7	183	Utah
40. Kobe Pryor	Cedartown (Cedartown, GA)	RB	5-10	205	Clemson
41. Ebony Jackson	Cherokee (Marietta, GA)	RB	6-1	205	Arkansas
42. Kentrel Bullock	Columbia (Columbia, MS)	RB	5-10	195	Ole Miss
43. Isaiah Jacobs	Owasso (Owasso, OK)	RB	5-10	195	Maryland
44. Torrance Davis	Garfield Heights (Cleveland, OH)	RB	6-2	220	Kentucky
45. Casey Filkins	Lake Oswego (Lake Oswego, OR)	RB	5-11	190	Stanford
46. Gavin Williams	Dowling Catholic (Des Moines, IA)	RB	6-0	195	Iowa
47. Lamy Constant	Canarsie (Brooklyn, NY)	RB	6-0	186	Toledo
48. Darvon Hubbard	Willow Canyon (Surprise, AZ)	RB	6-0	195	Texas A&M
49. Elijah Young	South-Doyle (Knoxville, TN)	RB	5-9	175	Missouri
50. Nathaniel Jones	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	RB	5-11	205	New Mexico

Tight Ends

1. Arik Gilbert	Marietta (Marietta, GA)	TE	6-5	253	LSU
2. Michael Mayer	Covington Catholic (Alexandria, KY)	TE	6-4	232	Notre Dame
3. Theo Johnson	Holy Names High School (Windsor, ON)	TE	6-6	242	Penn State
4. Maliq Carr	Oak Park (Oak Park, MI)	TE	6-4	230	Purdue
5. Jalin Conyers	Gruver (Gruver, TX)	TE	6-4	220	Oklahoma
6. Kevin Bauman	Red Bank Catholic (Red Bank, NJ)	TE	6-5	238	Notre Dame
7. Mark Redman	Corona Del Mar (Newport Beach, CA)	TE	6-6	239	Washington
8. D.J. Rogers	Eastside Catholic (Sammamish, WA)	TE	6-3	230	California
9. Brandon Frazier	McKinney North (McKinney, TX)	TE	6-7	247	Auburn
10. Luke Lachey	Grandview Heights (Columbus, OH)	TE	6-6	220	Iowa
11. Jack Yary	Murrieta Valley (Murrieta, CA)	TE	6-7	255	USC
12. Matthew Hibner	Lake Braddock (Burke, VA)	TE	6-4	230	Michigan
13. Lukas Ungar	Delbarton School (Morristown, NJ)	TE	6-4	213	Stanford
14. Joe Royer	Elder (Cincinnati, OH)	TE	6-5	225	Ohio State
15. Dominic Mammarelli	Naples (Naples, FL)	TE	6-4	235	Miami (Fla.)
16. Kole Taylor	Central (Grand Junction, CO)	TE	6-7	228	LSU
17. Connor O'Toole	La Cueva (Albuquerque, NM)	TE	6-3	205	Utah
18. John Copenhaver	Roswell (Roswell, GA)	TE	6-3	210	North Carolina
19. Ben Yurosek	Bakersfield Christian (Bakersfield, CA)	TE	6-5	220	Stanford
20. Caden Clark	Archbishop Hoban (Akron, OH)	TE	6-4	245	Alabama

Wide Receivers

1. Julian Fleming	Southern Columbia (Catawissa, PA)	WR	6-2	199	Ohio State
2. Kayshon Boutte	Westgate (New Iberia, LA)	WR	6-0	180	LSU
3. Demond Demas	Tomball (Tomball, TX)	WR	6-3	182	Texas A&M
4. Rakim Jarrett	St. John's (Washington, DC)	WR	6-0	208	Maryland
5. Jaxon Smith-Njigba	Rockwall (Rockwall, TX)	WR	6-1	188	Ohio State
6. Jordan Johnson	DeSmet (St. Louis, MO)	WR	6-1	182	Notre Dame
7. Gary Bryant Jr.	Centennial (Corona, CA)	WR	5-11	164	USC
8. Marcus Rosemy	St. Thomas Aquinas (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	WR	6-2	195	Georgia
9. Arian Smith	Lakeland (Lakeland, FL)	WR	6-1	170	Georgia
10. Gee Scott Jr.	Eastside Catholic (Sammamish, WA)	WR	6-3	207	Ohio State
11. Xzavier Henderson	Columbus (Miami, FL)	WR	6-4	180	Florida
12. Jalen McMillan	San Joaquin Memorial (Fresno, CA)	WR	6-2	182	Washington
13. E.J. Williams	Central (Phenix City, AL)	WR	6-3	188	Clemson
14. Quentin Johnston	Temple (Temple, TX)	WR	6-4	180	TCU
15. Jermaine Burton	Calabasas (Calabasas, CA)	WR	6-1	190	Georgia
16. Mookie Cooper	Pattonville (St. Louis, MO)	WR	5-9	193	Ohio State
17. Josh Downs	North Gwinnett (Suwanee, GA)	WR	5-10	165	North Carolina
18. A.J. Henning	Lincoln-Way East (Frankfort, IL)	WR	5-10	183	Michigan
19. Kobe Hudson	Troup County (LaGrange, GA)	WR	6-1	186	Auburn
20. Zavier Betts	Bellevue West (Bellevue, NE)	WR	6-2	189	Nebraska
21. Johnny Wilson	Calabasas (Calabasas, CA)	WR	6-6	224	Arizona State
22. Malachi Wideman	Venice (Venice, FL)	WR	6-5	197	Tennessee
23. John Humphreys	Corona Del Mar (Newport Beach, CA)	WR	6-5	205	Stanford
24. Ze'Vian Capers	Denmark (Alpharetta, GA)	WR	6-4	195	Auburn
25. Thaiu Jones-Bell	Miami Carol City (Hallandale, FL)	WR	5-11	187	Alabama
26. Jaquavion Fraziars	Dunnellon (Dunnellon, FL)	WR	6-4	194	Florida
27. LV Bunkley-Shelton	Junipero Serra (Gardena, CA)	WR	6-0	180	Arizona State
28. Muhsin Muhammad III	Myers Park (Charlotte, NC)	WR	6-0	185	Texas A&M
29. J.J. Evans	Montevallo (Montevallo, AL)	WR	6-2	185	Auburn
30. Marvin Mims	Lone Star (Frisco, TX)	WR	6-0	173	Oklahoma
31. Michael Redding III	IMG Academy (Bradenton, FL)	WR	6-1	195	Miami (Fla.)
32. Bryan Robinson	Palm Beach Central (W. Palm Beach, FL)	WR	6-1	185	Florida State
33. Jalin Hyatt	Dutch Fork (Irmo, SC)	WR	6-0	164	Tennessee
34. Javon Baker	McEachern (Powder Springs, GA)	WR	6-1	196	Alabama
35. KeAndre Lambert	Maury (Norfolk, VA)	WR	6-1	176	Penn State
36. Jimmy Calloway	Morrow (Morrow, GA)	WR	6-0	207	Tennessee
37. Porter Rooks	Myers Park (Charlotte, NC)	WR	6-1	191	NC State
38. Darin Turner	Memphis Central (Memphis, TN)	WR	6-3	206	Arkansas
39. Rome Odunze	Bishop Gorman (Las Vegas, NV)	WR	6-3	205	Washington
40. Kris Hutson	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	WR	5-11	175	Oregon
41. Quincy Brown	Destrehan (Destrehan, LA)	WR	6-4	175	Copiah-Lincoln CC
42. Traeshon Holden	Narbonne (Harbor City, CA)	WR	6-3	195	Alabama
43. Troy Omeire	Fort Bend Austin (Sugar Land, TX)	WR	6-4	206	Texas
44. Marcus Fleming	Northwestern (Miami, FL)	WR	5-10	160	Nebraska
45. Parker Washington	Fort Bend Travis (Richmond, TX)	WR	5-10	201	Penn State
46. Ja'Khi Douglas	Terrebonne (Houma, LA)	WR	5-9	187	Florida State
47. Loic Fouonji	Lee (Midland, TX)	WR	6-4	194	Texas Tech
48. Jaden Dottin	Suffield Academy (Suffield, CT)	WR	6-3	170	Penn State
49. Justin Robinson	Eagle's Landing Christian (McDonough, GA)	WR	6-4	200	Georgia
50. Koy Moore	Archbishop Rummel (Metairie, LA)	WR	6-1	172	LSU

Offensive Linemen

1. Paris Johnson Jr.	Princeton (Cincinnati, OH)	OT	6-7	290	Ohio State
2. Broderick Jones	Lithonia (Lithonia, GA)	OT	6-5	298	Georgia
3. Tate Ratledge	Darlington School (Rome, GA)	OT	6-6	322	Georgia
4. Turner Corcoran	Lawrence Free State (Lawrence, KS)	OT	6-6	280	Nebraska
5. Walker Parks	Frederick Douglass (Lexington, KY)	OT	6-5	275	Clemson
6. Sedrick Van Pran	Warren Easton (New Orleans, LA)	C	6-4	305	Georgia
7. Myles Hinton	Greater Atlanta Christian (Norcross, GA)	OT	6-6	308	Stanford
8. Trey Wedig	Kettle Moraine (Wales, WI)	OT	6-8	320	Wisconsin
9. Andrew Gentry	Columbine (Littleton, CO)	OT	6-8	310	Virginia
10. Nate Anderson	Reedy (Frisco, TX)	OG	6-5	262	Oklahoma
11. Andrew Raym	Broken Arrow (Broken Arrow, OK)	OG	6-5	285	Oklahoma
12. Tosh Baker	Pinnacle (Phoenix, AZ)	OT	6-7	271	Notre Dame
13. Paul Tchio	Milton (Alpharetta, GA)	OG	6-5	299	Clemson
14. Jack Nelson	Stoughton (Stoughton, WI)	OT	6-7	273	Wisconsin
15. Garrett Hayes	Athens (Athens, TX)	OG	6-5	318	TCU
16. Luke Wypler	St. Joseph Regional (Montvale, NJ)	C	6-2	285	Ohio State
17. Marcus Dumervil	St. Thomas Aquinas (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	OT	6-5	305	LSU
18. Peter Skoronski	Maine South (Park Ridge, IL)	C	6-4	275	Northwestern
19. Myles Murao	Mater Dei (Santa Ana, CA)	C	6-2	312	Washington
20. Chris Morris	West Memphis (West Memphis, AR)	OG	6-4	287	Texas A&M
21. Jalen Rivers	Oakleaf (Orange Park, FL)	OT	6-6	331	Miami (Fla.)
22. Chad Lindberg	Clear Creek (League City, TX)	OT	6-7	327	Georgia
23. Michael Carmody	Mars Area (Mars, PA)	OT	6-5	283	Notre Dame
24. Mitchell Mayes	Leesville Road (Raleigh, NC)	OG	6-4	306	Clemson
25. Issiah Walker Jr.	Norland (Miami, FL)	OT	6-4	309	Florida
26. Roger Rosengarten	Valor Christian (Littleton, CO)	OT	6-5	258	Washington
27. Anton Harrison	Archbishop Carroll (Washington, DC)	OT	6-5	310	Oklahoma
28. Ozzy Trapilo	Boston College (Boston, MA)	OT	6-7	275	Boston College
29. Jake Majors	Prosper (Prosper, TX)	C	6-4	283	Texas
30. Aaryn Parks	National Christian Acad. (Ft. Washington, MD)	OG	6-4	320	Oklahoma
31. Geirean Hatchett	Ferndale (Ferndale, WA)	OG	6-4	279	Washington
32. Ty'kieast Crawford	Carthage (Carthage, TX)	OT	6-5	335	Kilgore College
33. Akinola Ogunbiyi	Kempner (Sugar Land, TX)	OG	6-4	331	Texas A&M
34. Jaylen Garth	Port Neches-Groves (Port Neches, TX)	OT	6-5	285	Texas
35. Zak Zinter	Buckingham Browne & Nichols (N. Andover, MA)	OG	6-6	300	Michigan
36. Joshua Braun	Suwannee (Live Oak, FL)	OT	6-6	335	Florida
37. Logan Parr	O'Connor (Helotes, TX)	OG	6-4	280	Texas
38. Kevin Pyne	Milford (Millis, MA)	OT	6-7	275	Boston College
39. Levi Rogers	Woodinville (Woodinville, WA)	OG	6-5	270	Stanford
40. Bryn Tucker	Knoxville Catholic (Knoxville, TN)	OG	6-5	305	Clemson
41. Cooper Mays	Knoxville Catholic (Knoxville, TN)	C	6-3	295	Tennessee
42. Jonathan Denis	South Dade (Homestead, FL)	OG	6-3	279	Oregon
43. Connor McLaughlin	Jesuit (Tampa, FL)	OT	6-7	260	Stanford
44. Jeffrey Persi	J Serra Catholic (San Juan Capistrano, CA)	OT	6-7	265	Michigan
45. Javion Cohen	Central (Phenix City, AL)	OT	6-5	295	Alabama
46. Marcus Henderson	Memphis University School (Memphis, TN)	OG	6-5	300	Arkansas
47. Gus Hartwig	Zionsville (Zionsville, IN)	C	6-5	295	Purdue
48. Jonah Monheim	Moorpark (Moorpark, CA)	OG	6-5	280	USC
49. Andrej Karic	Southlake Carroll (Southlake, TX)	OT	6-5	272	Texas
50. John Young	Christian Acad. of Louisville (Louisville, KY)	OT	6-6	277	Kentucky

Defensive Linemen

1. Bryan Bresee	Damascus (Damascus, MD)	DT	6-5	290	Clemson
2. Myles Murphy	Hillgrove (Powder Springs, GA)	DE	6-5	260	Clemson
3. Jordan Burch	Hammond School (Columbia, SC)	DT	6-5	275	South Carolina
4. Gervon Dexter	Lake Wales (Lake Wales, FL)	DT	6-7	286	Florida
5. Will Anderson	Dutchtown (Hampton, GA)	DE	6-3	230	Alabama
6. Jalen Carter	Apopka (Apopka, FL)	DT	6-3	301	Georgia
7. Chris Braswell	St. Frances Academy (Baltimore, MD)	DE	6-3	220	Alabama
8. Sav'ell Smalls	Kennedy Catholic (Burien, WA)	DE	6-4	244	Washington
9. Demonte Capehart	IMG Academy (Hartsville, SC)	DT	6-5	295	Clemson
10. Jaquelin Roy	University Lab (Baton Rouge, LA)	DT	6-4	289	LSU
11. Desmond Evans	Lee County (Sanford, NC)	DE	6-6	240	North Carolina
12. Donell Harris	Gulliver Prep (Miami, FL)	DE	6-4	216	Texas A&M
13. Justin Rogers	Oak Park (Oak Park, MI)	DT	6-3	311	Kentucky
14. Timothy Smith	Sebastian River (Sebastian, FL)	DT	6-4	320	Alabama
15. McKinnley Jackson	George County (Lucedale, MS)	DT	6-2	327	Texas A&M
16. Alfred Collins	Cedar Creek (Bastrop, TX)	DE	6-5	284	Texas
17. Zykeivous Walker	Schley County (Ellaville, GA)	DE	6-4	260	Auburn
18. BJ Ojulari	Marietta (Marietta, GA)	DE	6-3	224	LSU
19. Chantz Williams	Oakleaf (Orange Park, FL)	DE	6-4	238	Miami (Fla.)
20. Omari Thomas	Briarcrest Christian (Memphis, TN)	DT	6-4	319	Tennessee
21. Tre Williams	St. John's (Washington, DC)	DT	6-3	306	Clemson
22. Jacobian Guillory	Alexandria (Alexandria, LA)	DT	6-2	331	LSU
23. Jay Hardy	McCallie School (Chattanooga, TN)	DT	6-4	280	Auburn
24. Tyler Baron	Knoxville Catholic (Knoxville, TN)	DE	6-5	256	Tennessee
25. Vernon Broughton	Cy Ridge (Houston, TX)	DT	6-5	286	Texas
26. Braiden McGregor	Port Huron Northern (Port Huron, MI)	DE	6-6	260	Michigan
27. Reggie Grimes	Ravenwood (Brentwood, TN)	DE	6-4	242	Oklahoma
28. Myles Murphy	Dudley (Greensboro, NC)	DE	6-4	280	North Carolina
29. Kedrick Bingley-Jones	Providence Day School (Charlotte, NC)	DT	6-5	266	North Carolina
30. Fadil Diggs	Woodrow Wilson (Camden, NJ)	DE	6-5	230	Texas A&M
31. Darrion Henry	Princeton (Cincinnati, OH)	DT	6-5	279	Ohio State
32. Rylie Mills	Lake Forest (Lake Forest, IL)	DE	6-5	275	Notre Dame
33. Jacolbe Cowan	Providence Day School (Charlotte, NC)	DT	6-5	262	Ohio State
34. Van Fillinger	Corner Canyon (Draper, UT)	DE	6-4	250	Utah
35. Antwaun Powell	Indian River (Portsmouth, VA)	DE	6-3	234	Florida
36. Jah-Marien Latham	Pickens County (Reform, AL)	DT	6-3	280	Alabama
37. Cole Brevard	Carmel (Carmel, IN)	DT	6-3	305	Penn State
38. Alex Huntley	Hammond School (Columbia, SC)	DT	6-3	279	South Carolina
39. Dominic Bailey	St. Frances Academy (Baltimore, MD)	DT	6-3	293	Tennessee
40. Demon Clowney	St. Frances Academy (Baltimore, MD)	DE	6-4	225	Ole Miss
41. Johnnie Brown	Sebring (Tampa, FL)	DT	6-2	250	Florida
42. Logan Jones	Lewis Central (Council Bluffs, IA)	DT	6-3	255	Iowa
43. Coziah Izzard	DeMatha Catholic (Laurel, MD)	DT	6-3	281	Penn State
44. Patrick Jenkins	John Ehret (Marrero, LA)	DT	6-2	285	TCU
45. Princely Umanmielen	Manor (Manor, TX)	DE	6-4	249	Florida
46. Davin Vann	Cary (Cary, NC)	DT	6-2	273	NC State
47. Morven Joseph	Lake Gibson (Lakeland, FL)	DE	6-2	220	Tennessee
48. Nazir Stackhouse	Columbia (Decatur, GA)	DT	6-4	306	Georgia
49. Josaih Hayes	Horn Lake (Horn Lake, MS)	DT	6-2	308	Kentucky
50. Xavier Carlton	Juan Diego Catholic (Draper, UT)	DE	6-7	262	Utah
51. Eric Taylor	Hewitt-Trussville (Trussville, AL)	DT	6-4	280	LSU
52. Samuel Anaele	McDougal Tech. Ins. (Deerfield Beach, FL)	DE	6-4	243	Kentucky
53. Jason Harris	Higley (Gilbert, AZ)	DE	6-7	220	Colorado
54. Jaylen Harrell	Berkeley Prep (Tampa, FL)	DE	6-4	235	Michigan
55. Tonka Hemingway	Conway (Conway, SC)	DT	6-2	259	South Carolina
56. Jonathan Horton	Scotlandville Magnet (Baton Rouge, LA)	DE	6-5	215	Virginia
57. Warren Brinson	IMG Academy (Bradenton, FL)	DT	6-5	290	Georgia
58. James Sylvester	Newton (Newton, TX)	DE	6-4	225	Baylor
59. Dayon Hayes	Westinghouse (Pittsburgh, PA)	DE	6-3	250	Pittsburgh
60. Jayson Jones	Calera (Calera, AL)	DT	6-7	340	Oregon
61. Clyde Pinder Jr.	Armwood (Seffner, FL)	DT	6-1	303	North Carolina
62. Alec Bryant	Shadow Creek (Pearland, TX)	DE	6-3	240	Virginia Tech
63. Zuriah Fisher	Aliquippa (Aliquippa, PA)	DE	6-3	255	Penn State
64. Jared Ivey	North Gwinnett (Suwanee, GA)	DE	6-6	225	Georgia Tech
65. Jamil Burroughs	McEachern (Powder Springs, GA)	DT	6-2	323	Alabama
66. Omarr Norman-Lott	Grant Union (North Highlands, CA)	DT	6-3	295	Arizona State
67. Elijah Roberts	Columbus (Miami, FL)	DE	6-3	267	Miami (Fla.)
68. Lamar Goods	St. Thomas More (Oakdale, CT)	DT	6-3	310	Florida
69. Jalen Lee	Live Oak (Watson, LA)	DT	6-3	294	Florida
70. Emanuel Rogers	Jensen Beach (Jensen Beach, FL)	DT	6-5	329	Florida State
71. Deontae Craig	The Culver Academies (Culver, IN)	DE	6-3	230	Iowa
72. Maceal Afaese	Kapolei (Kapolei, HI)	DT	6-5	260	Oregon
73. Tuli Tuipulotu	Lawndale (Lawndale, CA)	DT	6-3	266	USC
74. Isaiah Raikes	St. Augustine Prep (Richland, NJ)	DT	6-1	324	Texas A&M
75. Aidan Keanaaina	J.K. Mullen (Denver, CO)	DT	6-3	292	Notre Dame

Linebackers

1. Justin Flowe	Upland (Upland, CA)	LB	6-2	225	Oregon
2. Noah Sewell	Orem (Orem, UT)	LB	6-2	266	Oregon
3. Trenton Simpson	Mallard Creek (Charlotte, NC)	LB	6-3	224	Clemson
4. Mekhail Sherman	St. John's (Washington, DC)	LB	6-3	234	Georgia
5. Curtis Jacobs	McDonogh School (Owings Mills, MD)	LB	6-2	220	Penn State
6. Demouy Kennedy	Theodore (Theodore, AL)	LB	6-3	215	Alabama
7. Phillip Webb	Lanier (Buford, GA)	LB	6-4	224	LSU
8. Derek Wingo	St. Thomas Aquinas (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	LB	6-2	210	Florida
9. Quandarrius Robinson	Jackson-Olin (Birmingham, AL)	LB	6-5	217	Alabama
10. Cody Simon	St. Peter's Prep (Jersey City, NJ)	LB	6-1	218	Ohio State
11. Antonio Doyle	Lutheran North (St. Louis, MO)	LB	6-3	229	Texas A&M
12. Antoine Sampah	Woodbridge (Woodbridge, VA)	LB	6-3	220	LSU
13. Wesley Steiner	Houston County (Warner Robins, GA)	LB	6-0	220	Auburn
14. Jordan Botelho	St. Louis (Honolulu, HI)	LB	6-3	230	Notre Dame
15. Prince Dorbah	Highland Park (Dallas, TX)	LB	6-3	208	Texas
16. Keyshawn Greene	Wakulla (Crawfordville, FL)	LB	6-3	195	Nebraska
17. Josh White	Cy Creek (Houston, TX)	LB	6-1	200	LSU
18. Nick Herbig	St. Louis (Honolulu, HI)	LB	6-2	215	Wisconsin
19. Kalel Mullings	Milton Academy (Boston, MA)	LB	6-1	220	Michigan
20. Jackson Bratton	Muscle Shoals (Muscle Shoals, AL)	LB	6-3	233	Alabama
21. Edgerrin Cooper	Covington (Covington, LA)	LB	6-2	205	Texas A&M
22. Kourt Williams	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	LB	6-1	216	Ohio State
23. Kaden Johnson	Minnehaha Academy (Minneapolis, MN)	LB	6-2	235	Wisconsin
24. Damian Sellers	Saguaro (Scottsdale, AZ)	LB	6-2	224	UCLA
25. Len'Neth Whitehead	Athens Academy (Athens, GA)	LB	6-2	230	Tennessee
26. Sergio Allen	Peach County (Fort Valley, GA)	LB	6-1	217	Clemson
27. Mohamed Kaba	Clinton (Clinton, NC)	LB	6-2	212	South Carolina
28. Stephen Dix Jr.	Dr. Phillips (Orlando, FL)	LB	6-2	210	Florida State
29. Desmond Tisdol	Wilcox County (Rochelle, GA)	LB	6-0	215	Auburn
30. Jordan Banks	Narbonne (Harbor City, CA)	LB	6-1	228	Arizona State
31. Ruben Hyppolite II	McArthur (Hollywood, FL)	LB	6-0	225	Maryland
32. Kevin Swint	Carrollton (Carrollton, GA)	LB	6-3	243	Clemson
33. Osman Savage	St. Frances Academy (Baltimore, MD)	LB	6-2	225	Michigan
34. Bryson Eason	Whitehaven (Memphis, TN)	LB	6-2	270	Tennessee
35. Jakivuan Brown	Horn Lake (Horn Lake, MS)	LB	6-3	235	Ole Miss
36. Cameron Riley	Hillcrest (Evergreen, AL)	LB	6-4	207	Auburn
37. Itayvion Brown	Lutheran North (St. Louis, MO)	LB	6-3	218	Minnesota
38. Martavius French	Whitehaven (Memphis, TN)	LB	6-2	240	Tennessee
39. Jaheim Thomas	Princeton (Cincinnati, OH)	LB	6-3	215	Cincinnati
40. Jonathan Vaughns	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	LB	6-2	215	UCLA
41. Mitchell Melton	Good Counsel (Olney, MD)	LB	6-3	235	Ohio State
42. Shane Whitter	Walter M. Williams (Burlington, NC)	LB	6-0	222	Oklahoma
43. Nikhai Hill-Green	St. Frances Academy (Baltimore, MD)	LB	6-1	230	Michigan
44. Romello Height	Dublin (Dublin, GA)	LB	6-5	216	Auburn
45. Brandon Williams	Isidore Newman (New Orleans, LA)	LB	6-3	220	Virginia
46. Khatavian Franks	Creekside (Fairburn, GA)	LB	6-2	205	Georgia Tech
47. Korey Smith	The Peddle School (Hightstown, NJ)	LB	6-1	235	Boston College
48. Choe Bryant-Strother	Greater Atlanta Christian (Norcross, GA)	LB	6-3	230	UCLA
49. Darius Snow	Hebron (Carrollton, TX)	LB	6-0	215	Michigan State
50. Jackson LaDuke	Spanish Springs (Sparks, NV)	LB	6-3	220	Oregon

Defensive Backs

1. Kelee Ringo	Saguaro (Scottsdale, AZ)	CB	6-2	205	Georgia
2. Elias Ricks	IMG Academy (Rancho Cucamonga, CA)	CB	6-2	192	LSU
3. Jaylon Jones	Steele (Cibolo, TX)	S	6-2	190	Texas A&M
4. Dontae Manning	Raytown (Kansas City, MO)	CB	6-0	185	Oregon
5. Demorie Tate	Freedom (Orlando, FL)	CB	6-1	189	Florida State
6. Avantae Williams	Deland (Deland, FL)	S	5-11	170	Miami (Fla.)
7. Clark Phillips III	La Habra (La Habra, CA)	CB	5-11	178	Utah
8. Fred Davis II	Trinity Christian (Jacksonville, FL)	CB	6-0	192	Clemson
9. Brian Branch	Sandy Creek (Tyrone, GA)	S	5-11	185	Alabama
10. Antonio Johnson	East Saint Louis (East Saint Louis, IL)	S	6-3	182	Texas A&M
11. Jordan Toles	St. Frances Academy (Baltimore, MD)	S	6-2	190	LSU
12. Keshawn Lawrence	Ensworth (Nashville, TN)	S	6-2	202	Tennessee
13. Jahari Rogers	Arlington (Arlington, TX)	CB	6-0	170	Florida
14. Jalen Kimber	Mansfield Timberview (Arlington, TX)	CB	6-0	170	Georgia
15. Enzo Jennings	Oak Park (Oak Park, MI)	S	6-1	185	Penn State
16. Xavion Alford	Shadow Creek (Pearland, TX)	S	6-0	182	Texas
17. Kitan Crawford	John Tyler (Tyler, TX)	CB	5-11	200	Texas
18. Ja'Qurious Conley	Northside (Jacksonville, NC)	S	6-2	203	North Carolina
19. Andre Seldon	Belleville (Belleville, MI)	CB	5-8	154	Michigan
20. Jordan Morant	Bergen Catholic (Oradell, NJ)	S	5-11	212	Michigan
21. Lathan Ransom	Salpointe Catholic (Tucson, AZ)	S	6-1	193	Ohio State
22. Myles Slusher	Broken Arrow (Broken Arrow, OK)	S	6-0	181	Arkansas
23. Ethan Pouncey	Winter Park (Winter Park, FL)	CB	6-1	160	Florida
24. Major Burns	Madison Prep (Baton Rouge, LA)	S	6-2	176	Georgia
25. Jerrin Thompson	Lufkin (Lufkin, TX)	S	6-1	183	Texas
26. Emmanuel Forbes	Grenada (Grenada, MS)	CB	6-1	171	Mississippi St.
27. Jacobe Covington	Saguaro (Scottsdale, AZ)	S	6-1	196	Washington
28. Eric Reed	Calvary Baptist Academy (Shreveport, LA)	S	6-1	197	Auburn
29. Darion Green-Warren	Narbonne (Harbor City, CA)	CB	6-0	187	Michigan
30. Ayden Hector	Eastside Catholic (Sammamish, WA)	CB	6-0	198	TBA
31. Luke Hill	St. Frances Academy (Baltimore, MD)	CB	5-11	180	Oregon
32. Chris Thompson Jr.	Duncanville (Duncanville, TX)	S	6-2	199	Auburn
33. Ryan Watts	Little Elm (Little Elm, TX)	S	6-3	187	Ohio State
34. Malachi Moore	Hewitt-Trussville (Trussville, AL)	S	6-0	180	Alabama
35. Bryson Washington	C.E. King (Houston, TX)	S	6-2	196	Oklahoma
36. RJ Mickens	Southlake Carroll (Southlake, TX)	S	6-1	197	Clemson
37. Jadarius Green-McKnight	Dunbar (Fort Myers, FL)	S	5-11	204	Florida State
38. Jalen Harrell	Champagnat Catholic (Hialeah, FL)	S	6-2	180	Miami (Fla.)
39. Cameron Roseman-Sinclair	Myers Park (Charlotte, NC)	S	6-0	194	North Carolina
40. Makari Paige	West Bloomfield (West Bloomfield, MI)	S	6-3	182	Michigan
41. Miles Brooks	Trinity Christian (Jacksonville, FL)	CB	6-2	185	Georgia Tech
42. RJ Moten	Delran (Delran, NJ)	S	6-0	200	Michigan
43. Keontae Jenkins	Frank W. Cox (Virginia Beach, VA)	CB	5-10	160	TCU
44. Henry Gray	Miami Central (Miami, FL)	S	6-0	172	Nebraska
45. Jaiden Francois	South Dade (Homestead, FL)	S	6-0	184	Nebraska
46. David Vincent-Okoli	The Bullis School (Gaithersburg, MD)	CB	5-11	176	West Virginia
47. Dwight McGlothern	Klein Oak (Spring, TX)	CB	6-2	180	LSU
48. Malcolm Greene	Highland Springs (Highland Springs, VA)	S	5-10	180	Clemson
49. Jahquez Robinson	Sandalwood (Jacksonville, FL)	CB	6-2	190	Alabama
50. Isaiah Dunson	Tucker (Tucker, GA)	CB	6-2	180	Miami (Fla.)
51. Christian Gonzalez	The Colony (The Colony, TX)	S	6-1	193	Colorado
52. Bud Clark	Alexandria (Alexandria, LA)	S	6-2	180	TCU
53. Kendall Dennis	Lakeland (Lakeland, FL)	CB	6-0	174	Oklahoma
54. Rashad Torrence II	Marietta (Marietta, GA)	S	6-0	195	Florida
55. Avery Helm	Fort Bend Marshall (Missouri City, TX)	CB	6-2	170	Florida
56. Jahdae Barron	Pflugerville Connally (Austin, TX)	CB	5-11	175	Texas
57. Nate Ritchie	Lone Peak (American Fork, UT)	S	6-3	200	Utah
58. Lejond Cavazos	IMG Academy (Seguin, TX)	CB	6-1	196	Ohio State
59. Joshua Eaton	Aldine MacArthur (Houston, TX)	CB	6-2	175	Oklahoma
60. Mordecai McDaniel	St. John's (Washington, DC)	CB	6-1	195	Florida
61. Lorando Johnson	Lancaster (Lancaster, TX)	CB	5-11	181	LSU
62. Joshuah Moten	National Christian Acad. (Fort Washington, MD)	CB	5-11	165	Texas A&M
63. Keshawn Washington	South Dade (Homestead, FL)	S	6-2	177	Miami (Fla.)
64. Javier Morton	Stephenson (Stone Mountain, GA)	S	6-2	197	Fort Scott CC
65. John Humphrey	John Muir (Pasadena, CA)	CB	6-2	176	UCLA
66. Joseph Johnson	Life Christian Acad. (Colonial Heights, VA)	CB	6-2	175	Penn State
67. Donovan Kaufman	Archbishop Rummel (Metairie, LA)	S	5-9	195	Vanderbilt
68. Brandon Jones	Narbonne (Harbor City, CA)	CB	5-10	165	Stanford
69. Osita Smith	Milford Academy (New Berlin, NY)	S	6-2	205	Maryland
70. Janari Dean	South Panola (Batesville, MS)	S	6-0	190	Mississippi St.
71. Doneiko Slaughter	Roswell (Roswell, GA)	S	5-11	178	Tennessee
72. Vito Tisdale	Bowling Green (Bowling Green, KY)	S	5-11	195	Kentucky
73. Fenley Graham	Lakeland (Lakeland, FL)	CB	5-9	171	Florida
74. Tre'Vez Johnson	Bartram Trail (Jacksonville, FL)	S	5-11	175	Florida
75. Rashad Battle	Creekside (Fairburn, GA)	CB	6-2	187	Pittsburgh

Athletes

1. Drew Sanders	Ryan (Denton, TX)	ATH	6-5	232	Alabama
2. Darnell Washington	Desert Pines (Las Vegas, NV)	ATH	6-8	261	Georgia
3. Elijhah Badger	Folsom (Sacramento, CA)	ATH	6-2	195	Arizona State
4. Ladarius Tennison	Rockledge (Southwest Brevard County, FL)	ATH	5-9	193	Auburn
5. Kristian Story	Lanett (Lanett, AL)	ATH	6-1	210	Alabama
6. Jeremiah Pegues	Oxford (Oxford, MS)	ATH	6-2	285	Auburn
7. Eric Shaw	Reeltown (Notasulga, AL)	ATH	6-4	205	South Carolina
8. Lideatrick Griffin	Philadelphia (Philadelphia, MS)	ATH	5-10	170	Mississippi St.
9. Marc Britt	Miami Christian School (Miami, FL)	ATH	6-2	190	Ole Miss
10. Jordan Addison	Tuscarora (Frederick, MD)	ATH	5-11	161	Pittsburgh
11. Sam Adams II	Eastside Catholic (Sammamish, WA)	ATH	6-1	194	Washington
12. Michael Henderson	Ranchview (Carrollton, TX)	ATH	6-2	234	Oklahoma
13. Jaden Navarrette	Norco (Norco, CA)	ATH	6-3	235	Oregon
14. Cameron Martinez	Muskegon (Muskegon, MI)	ATH	5-11	183	Ohio State
15. Kelvontay Dixon	Carthage (Carthage, TX)	ATH	6-0	180	Texas
16. Joel Williams	Madison Prep Acad. (Baton Rouge, LA)	ATH	6-1	180	Kentucky
17. Jaheim Bell	Valdosta (Valdosta, GA)	ATH	6-2	207	South Carolina
18. Damarcus Beckwith	Florence (Florence, AL)	ATH	6-4	215	Tennessee
19. De'Rickey Wright	Gadsden City (Gadsden, AL)	ATH	6-4	220	Vanderbilt
20. Dillon Johnson	St. Joseph (Greenville, MS)	ATH	6-0	192	Mississippi St.
21. Corey Wren	John Curtis (New Orleans, LA)	ATH	5-9	170	Florida State
22. DJ Graham	Keller Central (Keller, TX)	ATH	6-1	178	Oklahoma
23. William Mohan	Erasmus Hall (Brooklyn, NY)	ATH	6-1	195	Michigan
24. Eamonn Dennis	St. John's (Worcester, MA)	ATH	5-10	173	Michigan
25. Isaiah Newell	Las Lomas (Walnut Creek, CA)	ATH	6-3	215	Oregon State

TOP 50 CLASSES

1. Georgia
2. Alabama
3. Clemson
4. LSU
5. Ohio State
6. Texas A&M
7. Auburn
8. Florida
9. Texas
10. Tennessee
11. Oklahoma
12. Oregon
13. Miami
14. Michigan
15. Penn State
16. Washington
17. Notre Dame
18. South Carolina
19. North Carolina
20. Nebraska
21. Stanford
22. Florida State
23. Kentucky
24. Arizona State
25. Wisconsin
26. Georgia Tech
27. Mississippi State
28. TCU
29. Utah
30. Arkansas
31. Maryland
32. UCLA
33. Purdue
34. Ole Miss
35. Iowa
36. Colorado
37. West Virginia
38. Minnesota
39. California
40. Cincinnati
41. NC State
42. Louisville
43. Michigan State
44. Pittsburgh
45. Oklahoma State
46. Iowa State
47. Northwestern
48. Virginia
49. Texas Tech
50. Missouri

ACC

1. Bryan Bresee	Damascus (Damascus, MD)	DT	6-5	290	Clemson
2. Myles Murphy	Hillgrove (Powder Springs, GA)	DE	6-5	260	Clemson
3. DJ Uiagalelei	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	QB	6-5	246	Clemson
4. Demarkcus Bowman	Lakeland (Lakeland, FL)	RB	5-9	191	Clemson
5. Trenton Simpson	Mallard Creek (Charlotte, NC)	LB	6-3	224	Clemson
6. Demonte Capehart	IMG Academy (Hartsville, SC)	DT	6-5	295	Clemson
7. Demorie Tate	Freedom (Orlando, FL)	CB	6-1	189	Florida State
8. Desmond Evans	Lee County (Sanford, NC)	DE	6-6	240	North Carolina
9. Avantae Williams	Deland (Deland, FL)	S	5-11	170	Miami (Fla.)
10. Walker Parks	Frederick Douglass (Lexington, KY)	OT	6-5	275	Clemson
11. Fred Davis II	Trinity Christian (Jacksonville, FL)	CB	6-0	192	Clemson
12. E.J. Williams	Central (Phenix City, AL)	WR	6-3	188	Clemson
13. Jahmyr Gibbs	Dalton (Dalton, GA)	RB	5-9	191	Georgia Tech
14. Chantz Williams	Oakleaf (Orange Park, FL)	DE	6-4	238	Miami (Fla.)
15. Andrew Gentry	Columbine (Littleton, CO)	OT	6-8	310	Virginia
16. Tre Williams	St. John's (Washington, DC)	DT	6-3	306	Clemson
17. Josh Downs	North Gwinnett (Suwanee, GA)	WR	5-10	165	North Carolina
18. Paul Tchio	Milton (Alpharetta, GA)	OG	6-5	299	Clemson
19. Jaylan Knighton	Deerfield Beach (Deerfield Beach, FL)	RB	5-9	194	Miami (Fla.)
20. Don Chaney Jr.	Belen Jesuit Prep (Miami, FL)	RB	5-11	203	Miami (Fla.)
21. Jalen Rivers	Oakleaf (Orange Park, FL)	OT	6-6	331	Miami (Fla.)
22. Mitchell Mayes	Leesville Road (Raleigh, NC)	OG	6-4	306	Clemson
23. Myles Murphy	Dudley (Greensboro, NC)	DE	6-4	280	North Carolina
24. Ja'Qurious Conley	Northside (Jacksonville, NC)	S	6-2	203	North Carolina
25. Kedrick Bingley-Jones	Providence Day School (Charlotte, NC)	DT	6-5	266	North Carolina
26. Michael Redding III	IMG Academy (Pensacola, FL)	WR	6-1	195	Miami (Fla.)
27. Bryan Robinson	Palm Beach Central (W. Palm Beach, FL)	WR	6-1	185	Florida State
28. Ozzy Trapilo	Boston College (Boston, MA)	OT	6-7	275	Boston College
29. Chubba Purdy	Perry (Gilbert, AZ)	QB	6-2	210	Florida State
30. Porter Rooks	Myers Park (Charlotte, NC)	WR	6-1	191	NC State
31. Sergio Allen	Peach County (Fort Valley, GA)	LB	6-1	217	Clemson
32. RJ Mickens	Southlake Carroll (Southlake, TX)	S	6-1	197	Clemson
33. Jadarius Green-McKnight	Dunbar (Fort Myers, FL)	S	5-11	204	Florida State
34. Tyler Van Dyke	Suffield Academy (Glastonbury, CT)	QB	6-4	212	Miami (Fla.)
35. Jeff Sims	Sandalwood (Jacksonville, FL)	QB	6-3	205	Georgia Tech
36. Lawrance Toafili	Pinellas Park (Largo, FL)	RB	6-0	180	Florida State
37. Jalen Harrell	Champagnat Catholic (Hialeah, FL)	S	6-2	180	Miami (Fla.)
38. Cameron Roseman-Sinclair	Myers Park (Charlotte, NC)	S	6-0	194	North Carolina
39. Stephen Dix Jr.	Dr. Phillips (Orlando, FL)	LB	6-2	210	Florida State
40. Davin Vann	Cary (Cary, NC)	DT	6-2	273	NC State

Big 12

1. Bijan Robinson	Salpointe Catholic (Tucson, AZ)	RB	6-0	200	Texas
2. Hudson Card	Lake Travis (Austin, TX)	QB	6-3	179	Texas
3. Alfred Collins	Cedar Creek (Bastrop, TX)	DE	6-5	284	Texas
4. Quentin Johnston	Temple (Temple, TX)	WR	6-4	180	TCU
5. Ja'Quinden Jackson	Duncanville (Duncanville, TX)	QB	6-2	219	Texas
6. Nate Anderson	Reedy (Frisco, TX)	OG	6-5	262	Oklahoma
7. Andrew Raym	Broken Arrow (Broken Arrow, OK)	OG	6-5	285	Oklahoma
8. Garrett Hayes	Athens (Athens, TX)	OG	6-5	318	TCU
9. Vernon Broughton	Cy Ridge (Houston, TX)	DT	6-5	286	Texas
10. Reggie Grimes	Ravenwood (Brentwood, TN)	DE	6-4	242	Oklahoma
11. Prince Dorbah	Highland Park (Dallas, TX)	LB	6-3	208	Texas
12. Seth McGowan	Poteet (Mesquite, TX)	RB	6-0	215	Oklahoma
13. Xavion Alford	Shadow Creek (Pearland, TX)	S	6-0	182	Texas
14. Kitan Crawford	John Tyler (Tyler, TX)	CB	5-11	200	Texas
15. Shane Illingworth	Norco (Norco, CA)	QB	6-7	234	Okla. State
16. Marvin Mims	Lone Star (Frisco, TX)	WR	6-0	173	Oklahoma
17. Anton Harrison	Archbishop Carroll (Washington, DC)	OT	6-5	310	Oklahoma
18. Jerrin Thompson	Lufkin (Lufkin, TX)	S	6-1	183	Texas
19. Jake Majors	Prosper (Prosper, TX)	C	6-4	283	Texas
20. Aaryn Parks	Nat. Christian Acad. (Fort Washington, MD)	OG	6-4	320	Oklahoma
21. Jalin Conyers	Gruver (Gruver, TX)	TE	6-4	220	Oklahoma
22. Bryson Washington	C.E. King (Houston, TX)	S	6-2	196	Oklahoma
23. Troy Omeire	Fort Bend Austin (Sugar Land, TX)	WR	6-4	206	Texas
24. Patrick Jenkins	John Ehret (Marrero, LA)	DT	6-2	285	TCU
25. Jaylen Garth	Port Neches-Groves (Port Neches, TX)	OT	6-5	285	Texas
26. David Vincent-Okoli	The Bullis School (Gaithersburg, MD)	CB	5-11	176	West Virginia
27. Logan Parr	O'Connor (Helotes, TX)	OG	6-4	280	Texas
28. Hunter Dekkers	West Sioux (Hawarden, IA)	QB	6-3	225	Iowa State
29. Loic Fouonji	Lee (Midland, TX)	WR	6-4	194	Texas Tech
30. Michael Henderson	Ranchview (Carrollton, TX)	ATH	6-2	234	Oklahoma
31. James Sylvester	Newton (Newton, TX)	DE	6-4	225	Baylor
32. Bud Clark	Alexandria (Alexandria, LA)	S	6-2	180	TCU
33. Kendall Dennis	Lakeland (Lakeland, FL)	CB	6-0	174	Oklahoma
34. Kelvontay Dixon	Carthage (Carthage, TX)	ATH	6-0	180	Texas
35. Joshua Eaton	Aldine MacArthur (Houston, TX)	CB	6-2	175	Oklahoma
36. Andrej Karic	Southlake Carroll (Southlake, TX)	OT	6-5	272	Texas
37. Taye McWilliams	Lamar Consolidated (Rosenberg, TX)	RB	6-2	202	Baylor
38. Shane Whitter	Walter M. Williams (Burlington, NC)	LB	6-0	222	Oklahoma
39. Savion Williams	Marshall (Marshall, TX)	WR	6-5	205	TCU
40. Chandler Morris	Highland Park (Dallas, TX)	QB	5-11	178	Oklahoma

Big Ten

1. Julian Fleming	Southern Columbia (Catawissa, PA)	WR	6-2	199	Ohio State
2. Paris Johnson Jr.	Princeton (Cincinnati, OH)	OT	6-7	290	Ohio State
3. Rakim Jarrett	St. John's (Washington, DC)	WR	6-0	208	Maryland
4. Jaxon Smith-Njigba	Rockwall (Rockwall, TX)	WR	6-1	188	Ohio State
5. Curtis Jacobs	McDonogh School (Owings Mills, MD)	LB	6-2	220	Penn State
6. CJ Stroud	Rancho Cucamonga (Rancho Cucamonga, CA)	QB	6-3	194	Ohio State
7. Turner Corcoran	Lawrence Free State (Lawrence, KS)	OT	6-6	280	Nebraska
8. Gee Scott Jr.	Eastside Catholic (Sammamish, WA)	WR	6-3	207	Ohio State
9. Theo Johnson	Holy Names High School (Windsor, ON)	TE	6-6	242	Penn State
10. Cody Simon	St. Peter's Prep (Jersey City, NJ)	LB	6-1	218	Ohio State
11. Trey Wedig	Kettle Moraine (Wales, WI)	OT	6-8	320	Wisconsin
12. Mookie Cooper	Pattonville (St. Louis, MO)	WR	5-9	193	Ohio State
13. A.J. Henning	Lincoln-Way East (Frankfort, IL)	WR	5-10	183	Michigan
14. Jack Nelson	Stoughton (Stoughton, WI)	OT	6-7	273	Wisconsin
15. Luke Wypler	St. Joseph Regional (Montvale, NJ)	C	6-2	285	Ohio State
16. Zavier Betts	Bellevue West (Bellevue, NE)	WR	6-2	189	Nebraska
17. Peter Skoronski	Maine South (Park Ridge, IL)	C	6-4	275	Northwestern
18. Braiden McGregor	Port Huron Northern (Port Huron, MI)	DE	6-6	260	Michigan
19. Blake Corum	St. Frances Academy (Laurel, MD)	RB	5-8	193	Michigan
20. Keyshawn Greene	Wakulla (Crawfordville, FL)	LB	6-3	195	Nebraska
21. Enzo Jennings	Oak Park (Oak Park, MI)	S	6-1	185	Penn State
22. Jalen Berger	Don Bosco Prep (Ramsey, NJ)	RB	6-0	205	Wisconsin
23. Nick Herbig	St. Louis School (Honolulu, HI)	LB	6-2	215	Wisconsin
24. Kalel Mullings	Milton Academy (Boston, MA)	LB	6-1	220	Michigan
25. Darrion Henry	Princeton (Cincinnati, OH)	DT	6-5	279	Ohio State
26. Andre Seldon	Belleville (Belleville, MI)	CB	5-8	154	Michigan
27. Jacolbe Cowan	Providence Day School (Charlotte, NC)	DT	6-5	262	Ohio State
28. Kourt Williams	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	LB	6-1	216	Ohio State
29. Jordan Morant	Bergen Catholic (Oradell, NJ)	S	5-11	212	Michigan
30. Lathan Ransom	Salpointe Catholic (Tucson, AZ)	S	6-1	193	Ohio State
31. Maliq Carr	Oak Park (Oak Park, MI)	TE	6-4	230	Purdue
32. Caziah Holmes	Cocoa (Cocoa, FL)	RB	6-0	179	Penn State
33. Darion Green-Warren	Narbonne (Harbor City, CA)	CB	6-0	187	Michigan
34. Kaden Johnson	Minnehaha Academy (Minneapolis, MN)	LB	6-2	235	Wisconsin
35. Ryan Watts	Little Elm (Little Elm, TX)	S	6-3	187	Ohio State
36. Cole Brevard	Carmel (Carmel, IN)	DT	6-3	305	Penn State
37. KeAndre Lambert	Maury (Norfolk, VA)	WR	6-1	176	Penn State
38. Logan Jones	Lewis Central (Council Bluffs, IA)	DT	6-3	255	Iowa
39. Coziah Izzard	DeMatha Catholic (Laurel, MD)	DT	6-3	281	Penn State
40. Makari Paige	West Bloomfield (West Bloomfield, MI)	S	6-3	182	Michigan

Pac-12

1. Justin Flowe	Upland (Upland, CA)	LB	6-2	225	Oregon
2. Noah Sewell	Orem (Orem, UT)	LB	6-2	266	Oregon
3. Sav'ell Smalls	Kennedy Catholic (Burien, WA)	DE	6-4	244	Washington
4. Dontae Manning	Raytown (Kansas City, MO)	CB	6-0	185	Oregon
5. Gary Bryant Jr.	Centennial (Corona, CA)	WR	5-11	164	USC
6. Clark Phillips III	La Habra (La Habra, CA)	CB	5-11	178	Utah
7. Jalen McMillan	San Joaquin Memorial (Fresno, CA)	WR	6-2	182	Washington
8. Myles Hinton	Greater Atlanta Christian (Norcross, GA)	OT	6-6	308	Stanford
9. EJ Smith	Jesuit (Dallas, TX)	RB	5-11	199	Stanford
10. Myles Murao	Mater Dei (Santa Ana, CA)	C	6-2	312	Washington
11. Johnny Wilson	Calabasas (Calabasas, CA)	WR	6-6	224	Arizona State
12. Ethan Garbers	Corona Del Mar (Newport Beach, CA)	QB	6-3	193	Washington
13. Daniyel Ngata	Folsom (Folsom, CA)	RB	5-9	180	Arizona State
14. John Humphreys	Corona Del Mar (Newport Beach, CA)	WR	6-5	205	Stanford
15. Elijhah Badger	Folsom (Sacramento, CA)	ATH	6-2	195	Arizona State
16. Jay Butterfield	Liberty (Brentwood, CA)	QB	6-6	202	Oregon
17. LV Bunkley-Shelton	Junipero Serra (Gardena, CA)	WR	6-0	180	Arizona State
18. Roger Rosengarten	Valor Christian (Littleton, CO)	OT	6-5	258	Washington
19. Ashaad Clayton	Warren Easton (New Orleans, LA)	RB	6-0	200	Colorado
20. Van Fillinger	Corner Canyon (Draper, UT)	DE	6-4	250	Utah
21. Jacobe Covington	Saguaro (Scottsdale, AZ)	S	6-1	196	Washington
22. Damian Sellers	Saguaro (Scottsdale, AZ)	LB	6-2	224	UCLA
23. Luke Hill	St. Frances Academy (Washington, DC)	CB	5-11	180	Oregon
24. Geirean Hatchett	Ferdale (Ferndale, WA)	OG	6-4	279	Washington
25. Rome Odunze	Bishop Gorman (Las Vegas, NV)	WR	6-3	205	Washington
26. Kris Hutson	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	WR	5-11	175	Oregon
27. Jordan Banks	Narbonne (Harbor City, CA)	LB	6-1	228	Arizona State
28. Parker McQuarrie	St. Paul's School (Weare, NH)	QB	6-7	220	UCLA
29. Xavier Carlton	Juan Diego (Draper, UT)	DE	6-7	262	Utah
30. Levi Rogers	Woodinville (Woodinville, WA)	OG	6-5	270	Stanford
31. Sam Adams II	Eastside Catholic (Sammamish, WA)	ATH	6-1	194	Washington
32. DeaMonte Trayanum	Archbishop Hoban (Akron, OH)	RB	5-11	220	Arizona State
33. Jason Harris	Higley (Gilbert, AZ)	DE	6-7	220	Colorado
34. Robby Ashford	Hoover (Hoover, AL)	QB	6-4	219	Oregon
35. Jaden Navarrette	Norco (Norco, CA)	ATH	6-3	235	Oregon
36. Mark Redman	Corona Del Mar (Newport Beach, CA)	TE	6-6	239	Washington
37. D.J. Rogers	Eastside Catholic (Sammamish, WA)	TE	6-3	230	California
38. Jonathan Denis	South Dade (Homestead, FL)	OG	6-3	279	Oregon
39. Connor McLaughlin	Jesuit (Tampa, FL)	OT	6-7	260	Stanford
40. Jayson Jones	Calera (Calera, AL)	DT	6-7	340	Oregon

SEC

1. Bryce Young	Mater Dei (Santa Ana, CA)	QB	5-11	183	Alabama
2. Kelee Ringo	Saguaro (Scottsdale, AZ)	CB	6-2	205	Georgia
3. Arik Gilbert	Marietta (Marietta, GA)	TE	6-5	253	LSU
4. Jordan Burch	Hammond School (Columbia, SC)	DT	6-5	275	South Carolina
5. Broderick Jones	Lithonia (Lithonia, GA)	OT	6-5	298	Georgia
6. Gervon Dexter	Lake Wales (Lake Wales, FL)	DT	6-7	286	Florida
7. Elias Ricks	IMG Academy (Rancho Cucamonga, CA)	CB	6-2	192	LSU
8. Will Anderson	Dutchtown (Hampton, GA)	DE	6-3	230	Alabama
9. Jalen Carter	Apopka (Apopka, FL)	DT	6-3	301	Georgia
10. Chris Braswell	St. Frances Academy (Baltimore, MD)	DE	6-3	220	Alabama
11. Jaylon Jones	Steele (Cibolo, TX)	S	6-2	190	Texas A&M
12. Drew Sanders	Ryan (Denton, TX)	ATH	6-5	232	Alabama
13. Darnell Washington	Desert Pines (Las Vegas, NV)	ATH	6-8	261	Georgia
14. Kayshon Boutte	Westgate (New Iberia, LA)	WR	6-0	180	LSU
15. Demond Demas	Tomball (Tomball, TX)	WR	6-3	182	Texas A&M
16. Mekhail Sherman	St. John's (Washington, DC)	LB	6-3	234	Georgia
17. Tate Ratledge	Darlington School (Rome, GA)	OT	6-6	322	Georgia
18. Demouy Kennedy	Theodore (Theodore, AL)	LB	6-3	215	Alabama
19. Tank Bigsby	Callaway (Hogansville, GA)	RB	6-0	210	Auburn
20. Jaquelin Roy	University Lab (Baton Rouge, LA)	DT	6-4	289	LSU
21. MarShawn Lloyd	DeMatha Catholic (Hyattsville, MD)	RB	5-9	211	South Carolina
22. Jase McClellan	Aledo (Aledo, TX)	RB	5-11	202	Alabama
23. Donell Harris	Gulliver Prep (Miami, FL)	DE	6-4	216	Texas A&M
24. Justin Rogers	Oak Park (Oak Park, MI)	DT	6-3	311	Kentucky
25. Kendall Milton	Buchanan (Clovis, CA)	RB	6-2	215	Georgia
26. Marcus Rosemy	St. Thomas Aquinas (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	WR	6-2	195	Georgia
27. Timothy Smith	Sebastian River (Sebastian, FL)	DT	6-4	320	Alabama
28. Phillip Webb	Lanier (Buford, GA)	LB	6-4	224	LSU
29. Arian Smith	Lakeland (Lakeland, FL)	WR	6-1	170	Georgia
30. Sedrick Van Pran	Warren Easton (New Orleans, LA)	C	6-4	305	Georgia
31. Brian Branch	Sandy Creek (Tyrone, GA)	S	5-11	185	Alabama
32. McKinnley Jackson	George County (Lucedale, MS)	DT	6-2	327	Texas A&M
33. Derek Wingo	St. Thomas Aquinas (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	LB	6-2	210	Florida
34. Quandarrius Robinson	Jackson-Olin (Birmingham, AL)	LB	6-5	217	Alabama
35. Xzavier Henderson	Columbus (Miami, FL)	WR	6-4	180	Florida
36. Roydell Williams	Hueytown (Hueytown, AL)	RB	5-10	202	Alabama
37. Zykeivous Walker	Schley County (Ellaville, GA)	DE	6-4	260	Auburn
38. Antonio Johnson	East St. Louis (East St. Louis, IL)	S	6-3	182	Texas A&M
39. Jordan Toles	St. Frances Academy (Baltimore, MD)	S	6-2	190	LSU
40. Keshawn Lawrence	Ensworth (Nashville, TN)	S	6-2	202	Tennessee

AAC

1. Evan Prater	Wyoming (Cincinnati, OH)	QB	6-5	190	Cincinnati
2. Jaheim Thomas	Princeton (Cincinnati, OH)	LB	6-3	215	Cincinnati
3. Jadon Thompson	Naperville Central (Chicago, IL)	WR	6-2	160	Cincinnati
4. Mason Garcia	Carolina Forest (Myrtle Beach, SC)	QB	6-4	218	East Carolina
5. Angelo Anderson	John Curtis (New Orleans, LA)	DE	6-2	261	Tulane
6. Thad Johnson	West Brook (Beaumont, TX)	WR	6-1	181	SMU
7. Sammy Anderson	Trotwood-Madison (Dayton, OH)	CB	6-2	170	Cincinnati
8. Josh Remetich	Holy Cross (New Orleans, LA)	OG	6-4	280	Tulane
9. De'Arre McDonald	Oakland (Murfreesboro, TN)	CB	6-0	187	Cincinnati
10. Justin Wodtly	Cleveland Heights (Cleveland, OH)	DT	6-3	271	Cincinnati

MAC

1. Lamy Constant	Canarsie (Brooklyn, NY)	RB	6-0	186	Toledo
2. DeMeer Blankumsee	Winton Woods (Cincinnati, OH)	WR	6-0	170	Toledo
3. Clay Caudill	Mansfield (Mansfield, OH)	TE	6-4	240	Toledo
4. Deshawn Jones	East (Akron, OH)	CB	5-11	170	Bowling Green
5. Tyler Berrong	Atlantic (Port Orange, FL)	LB	6-2	220	Kent State
6. Logan Wilson	Kimberly (Kimberly, WI)	DE	6-4	245	Western Mich.
7. Dustin Fletcher	Carman-Ainsworth (Flint, MI)	QB	6-3	205	No. Illinois
8. Gavin Hall	Harrison (Kennesaw, GA)	QB	6-2	190	Toledo
9. Jaden Rayford	Eastwood (Pemberville, OH)	S	6-1	200	Toledo
10. Qian Magwood	Walnut Ridge (Columbus, OH)	WR	6-0	185	Ball State

C-USA

1. Quantavious Leslie	Rome (Rome, GA)	OG	6-4	285	WKU
2. Allen Horace	Crockett (Crockett, TX)	TE	6-5	255	UTSA
3. JaQues Evans	Dublin (Dublin, GA)	ATH	6-2	225	WKU
4. Jhari Patterson	AC Reynolds (Asheville, NC)	WR	5-10	190	Marshall
5. Gabe Taylor	Gulliver Prep (Miami, FL)	S	5-10	170	Rice
6. Devyn Curtis	Brentwood Academy (Brentwood, TN)	LB	6-2	220	Middle Tenn.
7. Erik Williams	Coronado (Lubbock, TX)	OT	6-5	247	North Texas
8. LaMareon James	Indian River (Chesapeake, VA)	CB	5-10	170	Old Dominion
9. Charles Bell VI	Quince Orchard (Gaithersburg, MD)	S	6-0	195	Marshall
10. Ja'Marquis Johnson	Berrien (Nashville, GA)	WR	6-4	204	FAU

MW

1. Brennon Scott	Bishop Dunne (Dallas, TX)	LB	6-1	234	UNLV
2. Nathaniel Jones	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	RB	5-11	205	New Mexico
3. LaTrell Caples	Lancaster (Lancaster, TX)	WR	6-0	185	Boise State
4. Joey Wright	Bishop Manogue (Reno, NV)	OT	6-6	297	San Diego State
5. Semaj Verner	Mayfair (Lakewood, CA)	S	6-2	185	Boise State
6. John Gentry	North Shore (Houston, TX)	RB	5-10	186	Utah State
7. Herbert Gums	Diboll (Diboll, TX)	DT	6-1	284	Boise State
8. LeShaun Bell	Calabasas (Calabasas, CA)	DE	6-2	235	UNLV
9. Brandon Hernandez	Yucaipa (Yucaipa, CA)	OT	6-6	275	Boise State
10. Donovan Clark	Lincoln (Tacoma, WA)	CB	6-3	190	Boise State

Sun Belt

1. Corbet Mims	Kirby (Memphis, TN)	DE	6-4	232	Arkansas State
2. Samuel Kenerson	Central (Baton Rouge, LA)	ATH	5-9	160	Ga. Southern
3. Kimani Vidal	Marietta (Marietta, GA)	RB	5-7	205	Troy
4. Reginald Johnson	Southern University Lab (Baton Rouge, LA)	WR	6-0	178	Louisiana
5. Stan Ellis	Gaffney (Gaffney, SC)	WR	6-0	180	App. State
6. Kyren Lacy	Thibodaux (Thibodaux, LA)	WR	6-2	210	Louisiana
7. Jacob Freeman	Callaway (Hogansville, GA)	WR	5-11	195	Georgia State
8. Caleb Anderson	East Feliciana (Jackson, LA)	ATH	6-2	185	Louisiana
9. Je'Mari Littlejohn	Gaffney (Gaffney, SC)	LB	6-0	220	App. State
10. Antwon Fegans Jr.	Oxford (Oxford, AL)	CB	6-1	183	Arkansas State

1.	Korey Foreman	Centennial (Corona, CA)	DE	6-4	265
2.	Jack Sawyer	Pickerington North (Pickerington, OH)	DE	6-5	220
3.	Tommy Brockermeyer	All Saints Episcopal (Fort Worth, TX)	OT	6-7	283
4.	J.T. Tuimoloau	Eastside Catholic (Sammamish, WA)	DT	6-5	277
5.	James Williams	Western (Opa Locka, FL)	S	6-5	218
6.	Tony Grimes	Princess Anne (Virginia Beach, VA)	CB	6-0	180
7.	Emeka Egbuka	Stellacoom (Stellacoom, WA)	WR	6-1	190
8.	Amarius Mims	Bleckley County (Cochran, GA)	OT	6-8	315
9.	Brock Vandagriff	Prince Avenue Christian School (Bogart, GA)	QB	6-3	199
10.	Camar Wheaton	Lakeview Centennial (Garland, TX)	RB	5-11	190
11.	Caleb Williams	Gonzaga (Washington, DC)	QB	6-2	209
12.	Sam Huard	Kennedy Catholic (Burien, WA)	QB	6-2	175
13.	Nolan Rucci	Warwick (Lititz, PA)	OT	6-8	266
14.	Terrence Lewis	Chaminade-Madonna Prep (Hollywood, FL)	LB	6-1	200
15.	Dylan Brooks	Handley (Roanoke, AL)	DE	6-5	220
16.	J.J. McCarthy	Nazareth Academy (La Grange Park, IL)	QB	6-2	195
17.	Will Shipley	Weddington (Matthews, NC)	RB	5-11	198
18.	Maason Smith	Terrebonne (Houma, LA)	DT	6-4	316
19.	Jacorey Brooks	Booker T. Washington (Miami, FL)	WR	6-3	185
20.	Jake Garcia	La Habra (La Habra, CA)	QB	6-2	188
21.	Troy Franklin	Menlo-Atherton (Menlo Park, CA)	WR	6-2	170
22.	Raesjon Davis	Mater Dei (Santa Ana, CA)	LB	6-1	215
23.	Kyle McCord	St. Joseph's (Philadelphia, PA)	QB	6-3	204
24.	Ga'Quincy McKinstry	Pinson Valley (Pinson, AL)	CB	6-0	172
25.	Payton Page	Dudley (Greensboro, NC)	DT	6-4	315
26.	Jason Marshall	Miami Palmetto (Miami, FL)	CB	6-2	180
27.	TreVeyon Henderson	Hopewell (Hopewell, VA)	RB	5-11	195
28.	Leonard Taylor	Miami Palmetto (Miami, FL)	DT	6-4	255
29.	Savion Byrd	Duncanville (Duncanville, TX)	OT	6-5	265
30.	Tyler Buchner	The Bishop's School (La Jolla, CA)	QB	6-2	200
31.	Tunmise Adeleye	IMG Academy (Bradenton, FL)	DE	6-3	260
32.	Jeremiah Trotter Jr.	St. Joseph's (Philadelphia, PA)	LB	6-1	218
33.	Donovan Edwards	West Bloomfield (West Bloomfield, MI)	RB	5-11	190
34.	Thomas Fidone	Lewis Central (Council Bluffs, IA)	TE	6-5	218
35.	JC Latham	IMG Academy (Bradenton, FL)	OT	6-6	285
36.	Sage Ryan	Lafayette Christian Academy (Lafayette, LA)	ATH	5-11	193
37.	Damon Payne	Belleville (Belleville, MI)	DT	6-4	297
38.	Lee Hunter	Blount (Eight Mile, AL)	DT	6-5	292
39.	Smael Mondon	Paulding County (Dallas, GA)	LB	6-3	215
40.	Mario Williams	Plant City (Plant City, FL)	WR	5-10	165
41.	Ja'Tavion Sanders	Ryan (Denton, TX)	ATH	6-4	220
42.	Deion Colzie	Athens Academy (Athens, GA)	WR	6-4	193
43.	Landon Tengwall	Good Counsel (Olney, MD)	OT	6-6	300
44.	Derrick Davis Jr.	Gateway (Monroeville, PA)	S	6-1	194
45.	Donovan Jackson	Episcopal (Bellaire, TX)	OG	6-4	308
46.	Demeioun Robinson	Quince Orchard (Gaithersburg, MD)	DE	6-3	220
47.	Rocco Spindler	Clarkston (Clarkston, MI)	OG	6-5	295
48.	Dont'e Thornton	Mount Saint Joseph (Baltimore, MD)	WR	6-5	185
49.	Billy Bowman	Ryan (Denton, TX)	ATH	5-10	175
50.	Tywone Malone	Bergen Catholic (Oradell, NJ)	DT	6-4	300
51.	Miller Moss	Bishop Alemany (Mission Hills, CA)	QB	6-2	197
52.	Terrence Ferguson	Peach County (Fort Valley, GA)	OG	6-4	300
53.	Barrett Carter	North Gwinnett (Suwanee, GA)	LB	6-1	210
54.	LJ Johnson	Cy-Fair (Cypress, TX)	RB	5-10	204
55.	Blake Fisher	Avon (Avon, IN)	OT	6-6	336
56.	Drake Maye	Myers Park (Charlotte, NC)	QB	6-5	210
57.	Jakailin Johnson	DeSmet (St. Louis, MO)	CB	6-0	168
58.	Corey Collier	Miami Palmetto (Miami, FL)	S	6-2	170
59.	Beaux Collins	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	WR	6-3	195
60.	Marvin Harrison Jr.	St. Joseph's Prep School (Philadelphia, PA)	WR	6-4	184
61.	Xavian Sorey	Graceville (Graceville, FL)	LB	6-3	214
62.	Drew Kendall	Noble and Greenough School (Dedham, MA)	OG	6-4	255

63.	Isaiah Johnson	Bluefield (Bluefield, WV)	CB	6-2	180
64.	Brian Thomas Jr.	Walker (Walker, LA)	WR	6-4	185
65.	Agiye Hall	IMG Academy (Bradenton, FL)	WR	6-3	190
66.	Tristan Leigh	Robinson Secondary (Fairfax, VA)	OT	6-5	275
67.	Shadrach Banks	North Shore (Houston, TX)	WR	6-0	210
68.	Chris Hilton	Zachary (Zachary, LA)	WR	6-0	169
69.	Bryce Foster	Taylor (Katy, TX)	OG	6-5	318
70.	Kingsley Suamataia	Orem (Orem, UT)	OT	6-5	280
71.	Brock Bowers	Napa (Napa, CA)	TE	6-3	225
72.	Ma'a Gaoteote	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	LB	6-2	220
73.	Branden Jennings	Sandalwood (Jacksonville, FL)	LB	6-4	225
74.	Giovanni El-Hadi	Adlai Stevenson (Sterling Heights, MI)	OT	6-5	285
75.	JoJo Earle	Aledo (Aledo, TX)	WR	5-9	170
76.	Jake Briningstool	Ravenwood (Brentwood, TN)	TE	6-5	215
77.	Jayden Ballard	Washington (Massillon, OH)	WR	6-2	175
78.	Micah Morris	Camden County (Kingsland, GA)	OT	6-4	316
79.	Bryce Langston	Vanguard (Ocala, FL)	DE	6-3	250
80.	Jalen Milroe	Tompkins (Katy, TX)	QB	6-2	194
81.	Garrett Dellinger	Clarkston (Clarkston, MI)	OT	6-6	280
82.	David Daniel	Woodstock (Woodstock, GA)	ATH	6-2	185
83.	Wyatt Milum	Spring Valley (Huntington, WV)	OT	6-6	273
84.	Evan Pryor	William Amos Hough (Cornelius, NC)	RB	5-10	190
85.	Jordan Hancock	North Gwinnett (Suwanee, GA)	CB	6-0	170
86.	Armoni Goodwin	Hewitt-Trussville (Trussville, AL)	RB	5-8	190
87.	Quintin Somerville	Saguaro (Scottsdale, AZ)	DE	6-3	230
88.	Preston Stone	Parish Episcopal School (Dallas, TX)	QB	6-2	205
89.	Marcus Burris	Pleasant Grove (Texarkana, TX)	DE	6-4	262
90.	Avante Dickerson	Westside (Omaha, NE)	CB	5-11	159
91.	Mike Hall	Streetsboro (Streetsboro, OH)	DT	6-3	290
92.	Latrell McCutchin	Lyndon B. Johnson (Austin, TX)	CB	6-1	176
93.	Ethan Calvert	Oaks Christian (Westlake Village, CA)	LB	6-3	230
94.	Landon Jackson	Pleasant Grove (Texarkana, TX)	DE	6-6	240
95.	Kaine Williams	John Ehret (Marrero, LA)	S	6-2	205
96.	Reid Carrico	Ironton (Ironton, OH)	LB	6-3	225
97.	Julien Simon	Lincoln (Tacoma, WA)	ATH	6-2	221
98.	Cody Jackson	Foster (Richmond, TX)	WR	6-0	175
99.	Clayton Smith	Texas High (Texarkana, TX)	LB	6-4	215
100.	Quaydarius Davis	Skyline (Dallas, TX)	WR	6-0	193

Washington, Jones: Roy K. Miller/Icon via AP; Sawyer: Eric Albrecht/The Columbus Dispatch via AP

2020 FBS Schedules

ACC

BOSTON COLL. (6-7, 4-4)
Chestnut Hill, MA
Sept. 4 Syracuse
Sept. 12 Ohio
Sept. 19 at Kansas
Sept. 26 Purdue
Oct. 2 Clemson
Oct. 10 Louisville
Oct. 22 at Virginia Tech
Oct. 31 Holy Cross
Nov. 7 at NC State
Nov. 14 at Florida State
Nov. 21 North Carolina
Nov. 28 at Wake Forest

CLEMSON (14-1, 8-0)
Clemson, SC
Sept. 3 at Georgia Tech
Sept. 12 Louisville
Sept. 19 Akron
Sept. 26 Virginia
Oct. 2 at Boston College
Oct. 10 at Florida State
Oct. 17 NC State
Oct. 24 Syracuse
Nov. 7 at Notre Dame
Nov. 14 The Citadel
Nov. 21 at Wake Forest
Nov. 28 South Carolina

DUKE (5-7, 3-5)
Durham, NC
Sept. 5 Middle Tennessee
Sept. 12 Elon
Sept. 17 Charlotte
Sept. 26 at Pittsburgh
Oct. 3 Wake Forest
Oct. 10 at NC State
Oct. 17 North Carolina
Oct. 31 at Notre Dame
Nov. 7 at Georgia Tech
Nov. 13 Virginia
Nov. 21 Virginia Tech
Nov. 28 at Miami

FLORIDA STATE (6-7, 4-4)
Tallahassee, FL
Sept. 5 vs. West Virginia #
Sept. 12 Samford
Sept. 19 at Boise State
Oct. 3 at NC State
Oct. 10 Clemson
Oct. 17 Wake Forest
Oct. 24 at Louisville
Oct. 31 Pittsburgh
Nov. 7 at Miami
Nov. 14 Boston College
Nov. 19 at Syracuse
Nov. 28 Florida
#Atlanta, GA

GEORGIA TECH (3-9, 2-6)
Atlanta, GA
Sept. 3 Clemson
Sept. 12 Gardner-Webb
Sept. 18 UCF
Sept. 26 at North Carolina
Oct. 3 at Virginia Tech
Oct. 17 Virginia
Oct. 24 at Pittsburgh
Oct. 31 at Syracuse
Nov. 7 Duke
Nov. 14 Notre Dame #
Nov. 21 Miami
Nov. 28 at Georgia
#Mercedes-Benz Stadium

LOUISVILLE (8-5, 5-3)
Louisville, KY
Sept. 3 NC State
Sept. 12 at Clemson
Sept. 19 Murray State
Sept. 26 Western Kentucky
Oct. 3 at Syracuse
Oct. 10 at Boston College
Oct. 24 Florida State
Oct. 31 Virginia Tech
Nov. 7 at Virginia
Nov. 14 Wake Forest
Nov. 21 at Notre Dame
Nov. 28 Kentucky

MIAMI (6-7, 4-4)
Coral Gables, FL
Sept. 5 Temple
Sept. 12 Wagner
Sept. 17 UAB
Sept. 26 at Michigan State
Oct. 3 Pittsburgh
Oct. 9 at Wake Forest
Oct. 24 North Carolina
Oct. 31 at Virginia
Nov. 7 Florida State
Nov. 14 at Virginia Tech
Nov. 21 at Georgia Tech
Nov. 28 Duke

NORTH CAROLINA (7-6, 4-4)
Chapel Hill, NC
Sept. 4 at UCF
Sept. 12 vs. Auburn #
Sept. 19 James Madison
Sept. 26 Georgia Tech
Oct. 3 at Virginia
Oct. 10 Virginia Tech
Oct. 17 at Duke
Oct. 24 at Miami
Nov. 7 Connecticut
Nov. 14 Pittsburgh
Nov. 21 at Boston College
Nov. 27 NC State
#Atlanta, GA

NC STATE (4-8, 1-7)
Raleigh, NC
Sept. 3 at Louisville
Sept. 12 Mississippi State
Sept. 19 at Troy
Sept. 26 Delaware
Oct. 3 Florida State
Oct. 10 Duke
Oct. 17 at Clemson
Oct. 31 Wake Forest
Nov. 7 Boston College
Nov. 14 at Syracuse
Nov. 21 Liberty
Nov. 27 at North Carolina

PITTSBURGH (8-5, 4-4)
Pittsburgh, PA
Sept. 5 Miami (Ohio)
Sept. 12 at Marshall
Sept. 19 Richmond
Sept. 26 Duke
Oct. 3 at Miami
Oct. 17 Notre Dame
Oct. 24 Georgia Tech
Oct. 31 at Florida State
Nov. 6 Virginia Tech
Nov. 14 at North Carolina
Nov. 21 at Virginia
Nov. 28 Syracuse

SYRACUSE (5-7, 2-6)
Syracuse, NY
Sept. 4 at Boston College
Sept. 12 at Rutgers
Sept. 19 Colgate
Sept. 26 at Western Mich.
Oct. 3 Louisville
Oct. 17 Liberty
Oct. 24 at Clemson
Oct. 31 Georgia Tech
Nov. 7 at Wake Forest
Nov. 14 NC State
Nov. 19 Florida State
Nov. 28 at Pittsburgh

VIRGINIA (9-5, 6-2)
Charlottesville, VA
Sept. 7 vs. Georgia #
Sept. 12 VMI
Sept. 19 Connecticut
Sept. 26 at Clemson
Oct. 3 North Carolina
Oct. 17 at Georgia Tech
Oct. 24 at Old Dominion
Oct. 31 Miami
Nov. 7 Louisville
Nov. 13 at Duke
Nov. 21 Pittsburgh
Nov. 28 at Virginia Tech
#Atlanta, GA

VIRGINIA TECH (8-5, 5-3)
Blacksburg, VA
Sept. 5 Liberty
Sept. 12 Penn State
Sept. 19 at Middle Tenn.
Sept. 26 North Alabama
Oct. 3 Georgia Tech
Oct. 10 at North Carolina
Oct. 22 Boston College
Oct. 31 at Louisville
Nov. 6 at Pittsburgh
Nov. 14 Miami
Nov. 21 at Duke
Nov. 28 Virginia

WAKE FOREST (8-5, 4-4)
Winston-Salem, NC
Sept. 4 at Old Dominion
Sept. 11 Appalachian State
Sept. 19 Villanova
Sept. 26 vs. Notre Dame #
Oct. 3 at Duke
Oct. 9 Miami
Oct. 17 at Florida State
Oct. 31 at NC State
Nov. 7 Syracuse
Nov. 14 at Louisville
Nov. 21 Clemson
Nov. 28 Boston College
#Charlotte, NC

AMERICAN

CINCINNATI (11-3, 7-1)
Cincinnati, OH
Sept. 3 Austin Peay
Sept. 11 Western Michigan
Sept. 19 at Miami (Ohio)
Sept. 26 at Nebraska
Oct. 3 USF
Oct. 17 at Tulsa
Oct. 24 at SMU
Oct. 31 Memphis
Nov. 7 Houston
Nov. 12 East Carolina
Nov. 21 at UCF
Nov. 28 at Temple

Miami

EAST CAROLINA (4-8, 1-7)
Greenville, NC
Aug. 29 Marshall
Sept. 12 at South Carolina
Sept. 19 Norfolk State
Sept. 24 UCF
Oct. 3 at Georgia State
Oct. 10 at USF
Oct. 17 Navy
Oct. 30 at Tulsa
Nov. 7 Tulane
Nov. 12 at Cincinnati
Nov. 21 at Temple
Nov. 28 SMU

East Carolina

HOUSTON (4-8, 2-6)
Houston, TX
Sept. 3 Rice
Sept. 12 at Wash. State
Sept. 19 at Memphis
Sept. 26 North Texas
Oct. 8 Tulane
Oct. 16 at BYU
Oct. 24 at Navy
Oct. 31 UCF
Nov. 7 at Cincinnati
Nov. 14 USF
Nov. 21 at SMU
Nov. 28 Tulsa

MEMPHIS (12-2, 7-1)
Memphis, TN
Sept. 5 Arkansas State
Sept. 12 at Purdue
Sept. 19 Houston
Sept. 26 at UTSA
Oct. 1 at SMU
Oct. 16 UCF
Oct. 24 Temple
Oct. 31 at Cincinnati
Nov. 7 USF
Nov. 14 at Navy
Nov. 21 Tennessee-Martin
Nov. 28 at Tulane

NAVY (11-2, 7-1)
Annapolis, MD
Aug. 29 vs. Notre Dame #
Sept. 12 Lafayette
Sept. 19 at Tulane
Sept. 26 Temple
Oct. 3 at Air Force
Oct. 17 at East Carolina
Oct. 24 Houston
Oct. 31 at SMU
Nov. 7 Tulsa
Nov. 14 Memphis
Nov. 21 at USF
Dec. 12 vs. Army %
#Dublin, Ireland
%Philadelphia, PA

SMU (10-3, 6-2)
Dallas, TX
Sept. 5 at Texas State
Sept. 12 Stephen F. Austin
Sept. 19 at North Texas
Sept. 26 TCU
Oct. 1 Memphis
Oct. 17 at Tulane
Oct. 24 Cincinnati
Oct. 31 Navy
Nov. 5 at Temple
Nov. 14 at Tulsa
Nov. 21 Houston
Nov. 28 at East Carolina

TEMPLE (8-5, 5-3)
Philadelphia, PA
Sept. 5 at Miami
Sept. 12 Idaho
Sept. 19 Rutgers
Sept. 26 at Navy
Oct. 10 at Massachusetts
Oct. 17 USF
Oct. 24 at Memphis
Oct. 31 at Tulane
Nov. 5 SMU
Nov. 14 at UCF
Nov. 21 East Carolina
Nov. 28 Cincinnati

TULANE (7-6, 3-5)
New Orleans, LA
Sept. 3 SE Louisiana
Sept. 12 at Northwestern
Sept. 19 Navy
Sept. 26 at Mississippi State
Oct. 8 at Houston
Oct. 17 SMU
Oct. 24 at UCF
Oct. 31 Temple
Nov. 7 at East Carolina
Nov. 14 Army
Nov. 21 at Tulsa
Nov. 28 Memphis

Miami: Tom DiPace; ECU: Rob Goldberg Jr./ECU Athletics

Iowa

Nebraska

Penn State

Wisconsin

TULSA (4-8, 2-6)
Tulsa, OK
Sept. 5 Toledo
Sept. 12 at Oklahoma State
Sept. 19 Northwestern State
Sept. 26 at Arkansas State
Oct. 3 at UCF
Oct. 17 Cincinnati
Oct. 23 at USF
Oct. 30 East Carolina
Nov. 7 at Navy
Nov. 14 SMU
Nov. 21 Tulane
Nov. 28 at Houston

UCF (10-3, 6-2)
Orlando, FL
Sept. 4 North Carolina
Sept. 12 FIU
Sept. 18 at Georgia Tech
Sept. 24 at East Carolina
Oct. 3 Tulsa
Oct. 16 at Memphis
Oct. 24 Tulane
Oct. 31 at Houston
Nov. 7 Florida A&M
Nov. 14 Temple
Nov. 21 Cincinnati
Nov. 27 at USF

USF (4-8, 2-6)
Tampa, FL
Sept. 5 at Texas
Sept. 12 Bethune-Cookman
Sept. 19 Nevada
Sept. 26 at Florida Atlantic
Oct. 3 at Cincinnati
Oct. 10 East Carolina
Oct. 17 at Temple
Oct. 23 Tulsa
Nov. 7 at Memphis
Nov. 14 at Houston
Nov. 21 Navy
Nov. 27 UCF

BIG TEN

ILLINOIS (6-7, 4-5)
Champaign, IL
Sept. 4 Illinois State
Sept. 12 Connecticut
Sept. 19 Bowling Green
Oct. 3 at Rutgers
Oct. 10 at Nebraska
Oct. 17 Purdue
Oct. 24 Minnesota
Oct. 31 at Wisconsin
Nov. 7 Iowa
Nov. 14 at Indiana
Nov. 21 Ohio State
Nov. 28 at Northwestern

INDIANA (8-5, 5-4)
Bloomington, IN
Sept. 4 at Wisconsin
Sept. 12 Western Kentucky
Sept. 19 Ball State
Sept. 26 at Connecticut
Oct. 10 Maryland
Oct. 17 at Rutgers
Oct. 24 Michigan State
Oct. 31 Penn State
Nov. 7 at Ohio State
Nov. 14 Illinois
Nov. 21 at Michigan
Nov. 28 Purdue

IOWA (10-3, 6-3)
Iowa City, IA
Sept. 5 Northern Iowa
Sept. 12 Iowa State
Sept. 18 at Minnesota
Sept. 26 Northern Illinois
Oct. 3 Michigan State
Oct. 10 at Ohio State
Oct. 17 at Penn State
Oct. 24 Northwestern
Nov. 7 at Illinois
Nov. 14 Nebraska
Nov. 21 at Purdue
Nov. 28 Wisconsin

MARYLAND (3-9, 1-8)
College Park, MD
Sept. 5 Towson
Sept. 12 Northern Illinois
Sept. 19 at West Virginia
Oct. 3 Minnesota
Oct. 10 at Indiana
Oct. 17 at Northwestern
Oct. 24 Wisconsin
Oct. 31 Rutgers
Nov. 7 at Michigan
Nov. 14 Ohio State
Nov. 21 at Penn State
Nov. 28 Michigan State

MICHIGAN (9-4, 6-3)
Ann Arbor, MI
Sept. 5 at Washington
Sept. 12 Ball State
Sept. 19 Arkansas State
Sept. 26 Wisconsin
Oct. 3 Penn State
Oct. 10 at Michigan State
Oct. 17 at Minnesota
Oct. 24 Purdue
Nov. 7 Maryland
Nov. 14 at Rutgers
Nov. 21 Indiana
Nov. 28 at Ohio State

MICHIGAN STATE (7-6, 4-5)
East Lansing, MI
Sept. 5 Northwestern
Sept. 12 at BYU
Sept. 19 Toledo
Sept. 26 Miami
Oct. 3 at Iowa
Oct. 10 Michigan
Oct. 17 Ohio State
Oct. 24 at Indiana
Oct. 31 Minnesota
Nov. 14 at Penn State
Nov. 21 Rutgers
Nov. 28 at Maryland

MINNESOTA (11-2, 7-2)
Minneapolis, MN
Sept. 3 Florida Atlantic
Sept. 12 Tennessee Tech
Sept. 18 Iowa
Sept. 26 BYU
Oct. 3 at Maryland
Oct. 10 at Wisconsin
Oct. 17 Michigan
Oct. 24 at Illinois
Oct. 31 at Michigan State
Nov. 7 Purdue
Nov. 21 Northwestern
Nov. 27 at Nebraska

NEBRASKA (5-7, 3-6)
Lincoln, NE
Sept. 5 Purdue
Sept. 12 Central Michigan
Sept. 19 South Dakota State
Sept. 26 Cincinnati
Oct. 3 at Northwestern
Oct. 10 Illinois
Oct. 24 at Rutgers
Oct. 31 at Ohio State
Nov. 7 Penn State
Nov. 14 at Iowa
Nov. 21 at Wisconsin
Nov. 27 Minnesota

NORTHWESTERN (3-9, 1-8)
Evanston, IL
Sept. 5 at Michigan State
Sept. 12 Tulane
Sept. 19 Central Michigan
Sept. 26 at Penn State
Oct. 3 Nebraska
Oct. 17 Maryland
Oct. 24 at Iowa
Oct. 31 at Purdue
Nov. 7 vs. Wisconsin #
Nov. 14 Morgan State
Nov. 21 at Minnesota
Nov. 28 Illinois
#Chicago, IL

OHIO STATE (13-1, 9-0)
Columbus, OH
Sept. 5 Bowling Green
Sept. 12 at Oregon
Sept. 19 Buffalo
Sept. 26 Rutgers
Oct. 10 Iowa
Oct. 17 at Michigan State
Oct. 24 at Penn State
Oct. 31 Nebraska
Nov. 7 Indiana
Nov. 14 at Maryland
Nov. 21 at Illinois
Nov. 28 Michigan

PENN STATE (11-2, 7-2)
University Park, PA
Sept. 5 Kent State
Sept. 12 at Virginia Tech
Sept. 19 San Jose State
Sept. 26 Northwestern
Oct. 3 at Michigan
Oct. 17 Iowa
Oct. 24 Ohio State
Oct. 31 at Indiana
Nov. 7 at Nebraska
Nov. 14 Michigan State
Nov. 21 Maryland
Nov. 28 at Rutgers

PURDUE (4-8, 3-6)
West Lafayette, IN
Sept. 5 at Nebraska
Sept. 12 Memphis
Sept. 19 Air Force
Sept. 26 at Boston College
Oct. 10 Rutgers
Oct. 17 at Illinois
Oct. 24 at Michigan
Oct. 31 Northwestern
Nov. 7 at Minnesota
Nov. 14 Wisconsin
Nov. 21 Iowa
Nov. 28 at Indiana

RUTGERS (2-10, 0-9)
New Brunswick, NJ
Sept. 5 Monmouth
Sept. 12 Syracuse
Sept. 19 at Temple
Sept. 26 at Ohio State
Oct. 3 Illinois
Oct. 10 at Purdue
Oct. 17 Indiana
Oct. 24 Nebraska
Oct. 31 at Maryland
Nov. 14 Michigan
Nov. 21 at Michigan State
Nov. 28 Penn State

WISCONSIN (10-4, 7-2)
Madison, WI
Sept. 4 Indiana
Sept. 12 Southern Illinois
Sept. 19 Appalachian State
Sept. 26 at Michigan
Oct. 3 vs. Notre Dame #
Oct. 10 Minnesota
Oct. 24 at Maryland
Oct. 31 Illinois
Nov. 7 vs. Northwestern %
Nov. 14 at Purdue
Nov. 21 Nebraska
Nov. 28 at Iowa
#Green Bay, WI
%Chicago, IL

BIG 12

BAYLOR (11-3, 8-1)
Waco, TX
Sept. 5 vs. Ole Miss #
Sept. 12 Kansas
Sept. 19 Incarnate Word
Sept. 26 Louisiana Tech
Oct. 3 at Oklahoma
Oct. 15 at Texas Tech
Oct. 24 TCU
Oct. 31 at Texas
Nov. 7 Oklahoma State
Nov. 14 at Iowa State
Nov. 21 at West Virginia
Nov. 28 Kansas State
#Houston, TX

IOWA STATE (7-6, 5-4)
Ames, IA
Sept. 5 South Dakota
Sept. 12 at Iowa
Sept. 19 UNLV
Sept. 26 Texas Tech
Oct. 3 at Kansas
Oct. 10 at Oklahoma State
Oct. 17 Oklahoma
Oct. 29 Kansas State
Nov. 7 at TCU
Nov. 14 Baylor
Nov. 21 at Texas
Nov. 27 West Virginia

Iowa: Brian Ray/hawkeyesports.com; NU: Josh Wenger/NU Communications; PSU: Bruce Schwartzman; UW: Peter Brouillet

2020 FBS Schedules

Oklahoma

KANSAS (3-9, 1-8)
Lawrence, KS
Sept. 5 New Hampshire
Sept. 12 at Baylor
Sept. 19 Boston College
Sept. 26 at Coastal Carolina
Oct. 3 Iowa State
Oct. 10 at Kansas State
Oct. 17 Oklahoma State
Oct. 24 at West Virginia
Nov. 7 Texas
Nov. 14 at Texas Tech
Nov. 21 at Oklahoma
Nov. 28 TCU

KANSAS STATE (8-5, 5-4)
Manhattan, KS
Sept. 5 Buffalo
Sept. 12 North Dakota
Sept. 19 Vanderbilt
Sept. 26 at West Virginia
Oct. 3 Texas
Oct. 10 Kansas
Oct. 17 at TCU
Oct. 29 at Iowa State
Nov. 7 Texas Tech
Nov. 14 at Oklahoma
Nov. 21 Oklahoma State
Nov. 28 at Baylor

OKLAHOMA (12-2, 8-1)
Norman, OK
Sept. 5 Missouri State
Sept. 12 Tennessee
Sept. 26 at Army
Oct. 3 Baylor
Oct. 10 vs. Texas #
Oct. 17 at Iowa State
Oct. 24 Oklahoma State
Oct. 31 at TCU
Nov. 7 at West Virginia
Nov. 14 Kansas State
Nov. 21 Kansas
Nov. 28 at Texas Tech
#Dallas, TX

OKLAHOMA STATE (8-5, 5-4)
Stillwater, OK
Sept. 3 Oregon State
Sept. 12 Tulsa
Sept. 19 Western Illinois
Oct. 3 at TCU
Oct. 10 Iowa State
Oct. 17 at Kansas
Oct. 24 at Oklahoma
Oct. 31 Texas Tech
Nov. 7 at Baylor
Nov. 14 West Virginia
Nov. 21 at Kansas State
Nov. 27 Texas

TEXAS (8-5, 5-4)
Austin, TX
Sept. 5 USF
Sept. 12 at LSU
Sept. 19 UTEP
Oct. 3 at Kansas State
Oct. 10 vs. Oklahoma #
Oct. 17 West Virginia
Oct. 24 at Texas Tech
Oct. 31 Baylor
Nov. 7 at Kansas
Nov. 14 TCU
Nov. 21 Iowa State
Nov. 27 at Oklahoma State
#Dallas, TX

TCU (5-7, 3-6)
Fort Worth, TX
Sept. 5 at California
Sept. 12 Prairie View A&M
Sept. 26 at SMU
Oct. 3 Oklahoma State
Oct. 10 at West Virginia
Oct. 17 Kansas State
Oct. 24 at Baylor
Oct. 31 Oklahoma
Nov. 7 Iowa State
Nov. 14 at Texas
Nov. 21 Texas Tech
Nov. 28 at Kansas

TEXAS TECH (5-7, 3-6)
Lubbock, TX
Sept. 5 at UTEP
Sept. 12 Alabama State
Sept. 19 Arizona
Sept. 26 at Iowa State
Oct. 3 West Virginia
Oct. 15 Baylor
Oct. 24 Texas
Oct. 31 at Oklahoma State
Nov. 7 at Kansas State
Nov. 14 Kansas
Nov. 21 at TCU
Nov. 28 Oklahoma

WEST VIRGINIA (8-4, 6-3)
Morgantown, WV
Sept. 5 vs. Florida State #
Sept. 12 Eastern Kentucky
Sept. 19 Maryland
Sept. 26 Kansas State
Oct. 3 at Texas Tech
Oct. 10 TCU
Oct. 17 at Texas
Oct. 24 Kansas
Nov. 7 Oklahoma
Nov. 14 at Oklahoma State
Nov. 21 Baylor
Nov. 27 at Iowa State
#Atlanta, GA

C-USA

CHARLOTTE (7-6, 5-3)
Charlotte, NC
Sept. 5 at Tennessee
Sept. 12 Norfolk State
Sept. 17 at Duke
Sept. 26 Georgia State
Oct. 3 at Florida Atlantic
Oct. 10 at North Texas
Oct. 17 FIU
Oct. 24 UTEP
Nov. 7 at Middle Tennessee
Nov. 14 Old Dominion
Nov. 21 at Marshall
Nov. 28 Western Kentucky

FAU (6-7, 3-5)
Boca Raton, FL
Sept. 3 at Minnesota
Sept. 12 Stony Brook
Sept. 19 at Georgia Southern
Sept. 26 USF
Oct. 3 Charlotte
Oct. 10 at Southern Miss
Oct. 24 at Marshall
Oct. 31 UTSA
Nov. 7 Western Kentucky
Nov. 14 at FIU
Nov. 21 Old Dominion
Nov. 28 at Middle Tennessee

FIU (11-3, 7-1)
Miami, FL
Sept. 3 Jacksonville State
Sept. 12 at UCF
Sept. 19 at Old Dominion
Sept. 26 at Liberty
Oct. 10 Middle Tennessee
Oct. 17 at Charlotte
Oct. 24 at Massachusetts
Oct. 31 Marshall
Nov. 7 at UTEP
Nov. 14 Florida Atlantic
Nov. 21 at Western Kentucky
Nov. 28 Louisiana Tech

LOUISIANA TECH (10-3, 6-2)
Ruston, LA
Sept. 5 at UNLV
Sept. 12 at Southern Miss
Sept. 19 Prairie View
Sept. 26 at Baylor
Oct. 10 UTEP
Oct. 17 Marshall
Oct. 24 at UTSA
Oct. 31 UAB
Nov. 7 at North Texas
Nov. 14 Rice
Nov. 21 at Vanderbilt
Nov. 28 at FIU

MARSHALL (8-5, 6-2)
Huntington, WV
Aug. 29 at East Carolina
Sept. 12 Pittsburgh
Sept. 19 at Ohio
Sept. 25 Boise State
Oct. 3 Rice
Oct. 10 at Western Kentucky
Oct. 17 at Louisiana Tech
Oct. 24 Florida Atlantic
Oct. 31 at FIU
Nov. 14 Middle Tennessee
Nov. 21 Charlotte
Nov. 28 at Old Dominion

MIDDLE TENNESSEE (4-8, 3-5)
Murfreesboro, TN
Sept. 5 at Duke
Sept. 12 Indiana State
Sept. 19 Virginia Tech
Sept. 26 at Old Dominion
Oct. 3 Western Kentucky
Oct. 10 at FIU
Oct. 17 North Texas
Oct. 24 at Rice
Nov. 7 Charlotte
Nov. 14 at Marshall
Nov. 21 at Connecticut
Nov. 28 Florida Atlantic

NORTH TEXAS (4-8, 3-5)
Denton, TX
Sept. 5 Houston Baptist
Sept. 12 at Texas A&M
Sept. 19 SMU
Sept. 26 at Houston
Oct. 3 Southern Miss
Oct. 10 Charlotte
Oct. 17 at Middle Tennessee
Oct. 31 at UTEP
Nov. 7 Louisiana Tech
Nov. 14 at UAB
Nov. 21 Rice
Nov. 28 at UTSA

OLD DOMINION (4-8, 2-6)
Norfolk, VA
Sept. 4 Wake Forest
Sept. 12 Hampton
Sept. 19 FIU
Sept. 26 Middle Tennessee
Oct. 3 at Connecticut
Oct. 17 at UTSA
Oct. 24 Virginia
Oct. 31 at Western Kentucky
Nov. 7 UAB
Nov. 14 at Charlotte
Nov. 21 at Florida Atlantic
Nov. 28 Marshall

RICE (3-9, 3-5)
Houston, TX
Sept. 3 at Houston
Sept. 12 Army
Sept. 19 LSU #
Sept. 26 Lamar
Oct. 3 at Marshall
Oct. 10 UAB
Oct. 24 Middle Tennessee
Oct. 31 at Southern Miss
Nov. 7 UTSA
Nov. 14 at Louisiana Tech
Nov. 21 at North Texas
Nov. 28 UTEP
#NRG Stadium

SOUTHERN MISS (7-6, 5-3)
Hattiesburg, MS
Sept. 5 South Alabama
Sept. 12 Louisiana Tech
Sept. 19 Jackson State
Sept. 26 at Auburn
Oct. 3 at North Texas
Oct. 10 Florida Atlantic
Oct. 17 at UTEP
Oct. 24 at Liberty
Oct. 31 Rice
Nov. 14 at Western Kentucky
Nov. 21 UTSA
Nov. 28 at UAB

UAB (9-5, 6-2)
Birmingham, AL
Sept. 3 New Mexico State
Sept. 12 Alabama A&M
Sept. 17 at Miami
Sept. 26 at South Alabama
Oct. 3 UTSA
Oct. 10 at Rice
Oct. 17 Western Kentucky
Oct. 31 at Louisiana Tech
Nov. 7 at Old Dominion
Nov. 14 North Texas
Nov. 21 at UTEP
Nov. 28 Southern Miss

UTEP (1-11, 0-8)
El Paso, TX
Sept. 5 Texas Tech
Sept. 12 at Nevada
Sept. 19 at Texas
Sept. 26 New Mexico State
Oct. 10 at Louisiana Tech
Oct. 17 Southern Miss
Oct. 24 at Charlotte
Oct. 31 North Texas
Nov. 7 FIU
Nov. 14 at UTSA
Nov. 21 UAB
Nov. 28 at Rice

UTSA (4-8, 3-5)
San Antonio, TX
Sept. 5 at LSU
Sept. 12 at Texas State
Sept. 19 Grambling
Sept. 26 Memphis
Oct. 3 at UAB
Oct. 17 Old Dominion
Oct. 24 Louisiana Tech
Oct. 31 at Florida Atlantic
Nov. 7 at Rice
Nov. 14 UTEP
Nov. 21 at Southern Miss
Nov. 28 North Texas

WESTERN KENTUCKY (9-4, 6-2)
Bowling Green, KY
Sept. 5 Chattanooga
Sept. 12 at Indiana
Sept. 19 Liberty
Sept. 26 at Louisville
Oct. 3 at Middle Tennessee
Oct. 10 Marshall
Oct. 17 at UAB
Oct. 31 Old Dominion
Nov. 7 at Florida Atlantic
Nov. 14 Southern Miss
Nov. 21 FIU
Nov. 28 at Charlotte

Rice

MAC

AKRON (0-12, 0-8)
Akron, OH
Sept. 5 Youngstown State
Sept. 12 at New Mexico State
Sept. 19 at Clemson
Sept. 26 Miami (Ohio)
Oct. 3 at Buffalo
Oct. 10 at Kent State
Oct. 17 Massachusetts
Oct. 24 at Ball State
Oct. 31 Toledo
Nov. 14 Bowling Green
Nov. 21 Western Michigan
Nov. 27 at Ohio

BALL STATE (5-7, 4-4)
Muncie, IN
Sept. 3 Maine
Sept. 12 at Michigan
Sept. 19 at Indiana
Sept. 26 Wyoming
Oct. 3 Western Michigan
Oct. 10 at Buffalo
Oct. 17 Northern Illinois
Oct. 24 Akron
Oct. 31 at Miami (Ohio)
Nov. 10 Eastern Michigan
Nov. 18 at Central Michigan
Nov. 24 at Toledo

BOWLING GREEN (3-9, 2-6)
Bowling Green, OH
Sept. 5 at Ohio State
Sept. 12 Robert Morris
Sept. 19 at Illinois
Sept. 26 Buffalo
Oct. 3 Liberty
Oct. 10 Miami (Ohio)
Oct. 17 at Toledo
Oct. 24 at Ohio
Nov. 4 Kent State
Nov. 14 at Akron
Nov. 21 at Eastern Michigan
Nov. 27 Northern Illinois

BUFFALO (8-5, 5-3)
Buffalo, NY
Sept. 5 at Kansas State
Sept. 12 Saint Francis (Pa.)
Sept. 19 at Ohio State
Sept. 26 at Bowling Green
Oct. 3 Akron
Oct. 10 Ball State
Oct. 17 Kent State
Oct. 24 at Army
Nov. 3 at Northern Illinois
Nov. 10 Miami (Ohio)
Nov. 18 at Ohio
Nov. 27 at Western Michigan

CENTRAL MICHIGAN (8-6, 6-2)
Mt. Pleasant, MI
Sept. 5 San Jose State
Sept. 12 at Nebraska
Sept. 19 at Northwestern
Sept. 26 Bryant
Oct. 3 at Eastern Michigan
Oct. 10 at Northern Illinois
Oct. 17 Western Michigan#
Oct. 24 Miami (Ohio)
Nov. 4 Ohio
Nov. 11 at Toledo
Nov. 18 Ball State
Nov. 24 at Kent State
#Ford Field

EASTERN MICHIGAN (6-7, 3-5)
Ypsilanti, MI
Sept. 5 at Kentucky
Sept. 12 Coastal Carolina
Sept. 19 Northern Illinois
Sept. 26 at Missouri
Oct. 3 Central Michigan
Oct. 10 at Ohio
Oct. 17 at Army
Oct. 24 Toledo
Oct. 31 at Western Michigan
Nov. 10 at Ball State
Nov. 21 Bowling Green
Nov. 27 at Miami (Ohio)

KENT STATE (7-6, 5-3)
Kent, OH
Sept. 5 at Penn State
Sept. 12 Kennesaw
Sept. 19 at Kentucky
Sept. 26 at Alabama
Oct. 3 at Northern Illinois
Oct. 10 Akron
Oct. 17 at Buffalo
Oct. 24 Western Michigan
Nov. 4 at Bowling Green
Nov. 11 Ohio
Nov. 17 at Miami (Ohio)
Nov. 24 Central Michigan

MIAMI (OHIO) (8-6, 6-2)
Oxford, OH
Sept. 5 at Pittsburgh
Sept. 12 Arkansas-Pine Bluff
Sept. 19 Cincinnati
Sept. 26 at Akron
Oct. 3 Army
Oct. 10 at Bowling Green
Oct. 17 Ohio
Oct. 24 at Central Michigan
Oct. 31 Ball State
Nov. 10 at Buffalo
Nov. 17 Kent State
Nov. 27 Eastern Michigan

NORTHERN ILLINOIS (8-6, 6-2)
DeKalb, IL
Sept. 5 Rhode Island
Sept. 12 at Maryland
Sept. 19 at Eastern Michigan
Sept. 26 at Iowa
Oct. 3 Kent State
Oct. 10 Central Michigan
Oct. 17 at Ball State
Oct. 24 vs. BYU #
Nov. 3 Buffalo
Nov. 10 at Western Michigan
Nov. 17 Toledo
Nov. 27 at Bowling Green
#Bridgeview, IL

OHIO (7-6, 5-3)
Athens, OH
Sept. 5 NC Central
Sept. 12 at Boston College
Sept. 19 Marshall
Sept. 26 at Texas State
Oct. 3 at Toledo
Oct. 10 Eastern Michigan
Oct. 17 at Miami (Ohio)
Oct. 24 Bowling Green
Nov. 4 at Central Michigan
Nov. 11 at Kent State
Nov. 18 Buffalo
Nov. 27 Akron

TOLEDO (6-6, 3-5)
Toledo, OH
Sept. 5 at Tulsa
Sept. 12 San Diego State
Sept. 19 at Michigan State
Sept. 26 Central Connecticut
Oct. 3 Ohio
Oct. 10 at Western Michigan
Oct. 17 Bowling Green
Oct. 24 at Eastern Michigan
Oct. 31 at Akron
Nov. 11 Central Michigan
Nov. 17 at Northern Illinois
Nov. 24 Ball State

WESTERN MICHIGAN (7-6, 5-3)
Kalamazoo, MI
Sept. 4 Colgate
Sept. 11 at Cincinnati
Sept. 19 at Notre Dame
Sept. 26 Syracuse
Oct. 3 at Ball State
Oct. 10 Toledo
Oct. 17 Central Michigan#
Oct. 24 at Kent State
Oct. 31 Eastern Michigan
Nov. 10 Northern Illinois
Nov. 21 at Akron
Nov. 27 Buffalo
#Ford Field

MOUNTAIN WEST

AIR FORCE (11-2, 7-1)
Colorado Springs, CO
Sept. 5 Duquesne
Sept. 12 Boise State
Sept. 19 at Purdue
Sept. 26 at Fresno State
Oct. 3 Navy
Oct. 10 at San Jose State
Oct. 17 Hawaii
Oct. 24 at Wyoming
Nov. 7 at Army
Nov. 14 Colorado State
Nov. 21 New Mexico
Nov. 28 at Utah State

BOISE STATE (12-2, 8-0)
Boise, ID
Sept. 5 Georgia Southern
Sept. 12 at Air Force
Sept. 19 Florida State
Sept. 25 at Marshall
Oct. 3 San Jose State
Oct. 17 Utah State
Oct. 24 at Hawaii
Oct. 31 UNLV
Nov. 6 BYU
Nov. 14 at New Mexico
Nov. 21 at Wyoming
Nov. 28 Colorado State

COLORADO STATE (4-8, 3-5)
Fort Collins, CO
Sept. 5 Colorado
Sept. 12 at Oregon State
Sept. 19 Northern Colorado
Sept. 26 at Vanderbilt
Oct. 3 Fresno State
Oct. 10 New Mexico
Oct. 24 at UNLV
Oct. 31 Wyoming
Nov. 7 at San Diego State
Nov. 14 at Air Force
Nov. 21 Utah State
Nov. 28 at Boise State

FRESNO STATE (4-8, 2-6)
Fresno, CA
Sept. 5 Idaho State
Sept. 12 at Colorado
Sept. 26 Air Force
Oct. 3 at Colorado State
Oct. 10 at Texas A&M
Oct. 17 New Mexico State
Oct. 24 at Nevada
Oct. 31 Hawaii
Nov. 7 at UNLV
Nov. 14 at Utah State
Nov. 21 San Diego State
Nov. 28 San Jose State

HAWAII (10-5, 5-3)
Honolulu, HI
Aug. 29 at Arizona
Sept. 5 UCLA
Sept. 12 Fordham
Sept. 19 at Oregon
Oct. 3 Nevada
Oct. 10 New Mexico State
Oct. 17 at Air Force
Oct. 24 Boise State
Oct. 31 at Fresno State
Nov. 7 New Mexico
Nov. 14 UNLV
Nov. 21 at San Jose State
Nov. 28 at San Diego State

NEVADA (7-6, 4-4)
Reno, NV
Aug. 29 UC Davis
Sept. 5 at Arkansas
Sept. 12 UTEP
Sept. 19 at USF
Sept. 26 San Diego State
Oct. 3 at Hawaii
Oct. 17 at New Mexico
Oct. 24 Fresno State
Oct. 31 Utah State
Nov. 7 at San Jose State
Nov. 14 Wyoming
Nov. 28 at UNLV

NEW MEXICO (2-10, 0-8)
Albuquerque, NM
Aug. 29 Idaho State
Sept. 5 at Mississippi State
Sept. 12 at USC
Sept. 19 at New Mexico State
Oct. 3 Massachusetts
Oct. 10 at Colorado State
Oct. 17 Nevada
Oct. 24 at Utah State
Oct. 31 San Jose State
Nov. 7 at Hawaii
Nov. 14 Boise State
Nov. 21 at Air Force
Nov. 28 Wyoming

SAN DIEGO STATE (10-3, 5-3)
San Diego, CA
Sept. 5 Sacramento State
Sept. 12 at Toledo
Sept. 19 UCLA
Sept. 26 at Nevada
Oct. 3 UNLV
Oct. 10 at Utah State
Oct. 17 at Wyoming
Oct. 24 San Jose State
Nov. 7 Colorado State
Nov. 14 at BYU
Nov. 21 at Fresno State
Nov. 28 Hawaii

OU: Tim Clark; Rice Athletics; Fresno State Athletics; Hawaii Athletics; SDSU: Peter Brouillet

SAN JOSE STATE (5-7, 2-6)
San Jose, CA
Sept. 5 at Central Michigan
Sept. 12 UC Davis
Sept. 19 at Penn State
Oct. 3 at Boise State
Oct. 10 Air Force
Oct. 17 UNLV
Oct. 24 at San Diego State
Oct. 31 at New Mexico
Nov. 7 Nevada
Nov. 14 Connecticut
Nov. 21 Hawaii
Nov. 28 at Fresno State

UNLV (4-8, 2-6)
Las Vegas, NV
Aug. 29 California
Sept. 5 Louisiana Tech
Sept. 12 Arizona State
Sept. 19 at Iowa State
Oct. 3 at San Diego State
Oct. 10 Wyoming
Oct. 17 at San Jose State
Oct. 24 Colorado State
Oct. 31 at Boise State
Nov. 7 Fresno State
Nov. 14 at Hawaii
Nov. 28 Nevada

UTAH STATE (7-6, 6-2)
Logan, UT
Sept. 3 Washington State
Sept. 12 Southern Utah
Sept. 19 at Washington
Oct. 2 at BYU
Oct. 10 San Diego State
Oct. 17 at Boise State
Oct. 24 New Mexico
Oct. 31 at Nevada
Nov. 7 at Wyoming
Nov. 14 Fresno State
Nov. 21 at Colorado State
Nov. 28 Air Force

WYOMING (8-5, 4-4)
Laramie, WY
Sept. 5 Weber State
Sept. 12 at Louisiana
Sept. 19 Utah
Sept. 26 at Ball State
Oct. 10 at UNLV
Oct. 17 San Diego State
Oct. 24 Air Force
Oct. 31 at Colorado State
Nov. 7 Utah State
Nov. 14 at Nevada
Nov. 21 Boise State
Nov. 28 at New Mexico

PAC-12

ARIZONA (4-8, 2-7)
Tucson, AZ
Aug. 29 Hawaii
Sept. 5 Portland State
Sept. 12 Stanford
Sept. 19 at Texas Tech
Oct. 3 at UCLA
Oct. 9 Colorado
Oct. 17 USC
Oct. 23 at Washington
Oct. 31 Oregon
Nov. 7 at Utah
Nov. 21 at Oregon State
Nov. 28 Arizona State

ARIZONA STATE (8-5, 4-5)
Tempe, AZ
Sept. 3 Northern Arizona
Sept. 12 at UNLV
Sept. 19 BYU
Sept. 26 at USC
Oct. 3 Oregon State
Oct. 10 UCLA
Oct. 24 at Colorado
Oct. 31 at Washington State
Nov. 7 California
Nov. 13 at Oregon
Nov. 21 Utah
Nov. 28 at Arizona

CALIFORNIA (8-5, 4-5)
Berkeley, CA
Aug. 29 at UNLV
Sept. 5 TCU
Sept. 12 Cal Poly
Sept. 26 Utah
Oct. 3 at Washington State
Oct. 10 at USC
Oct. 17 Oregon
Oct. 24 at Oregon State
Oct. 31 Washington
Nov. 7 at Arizona State
Nov. 21 Stanford
Nov. 27 UCLA

COLORADO (5-7, 3-6)
Boulder, CO
Sept. 5 at Colorado State
Sept. 12 Fresno State
Sept. 19 at Texas A&M
Sept. 26 Oregon
Oct. 9 at Arizona
Oct. 17 UCLA
Oct. 24 Arizona State
Oct. 31 at USC
Nov. 7 Washington State
Nov. 14 at Stanford
Nov. 21 at Washington
Nov. 28 Utah

OREGON (12-2, 8-1)
Eugene, OR
Sept. 5 North Dakota State
Sept. 12 Ohio State
Sept. 19 Hawaii
Sept. 26 at Colorado
Oct. 3 Washington
Oct. 17 at California
Oct. 24 Stanford
Oct. 31 at Arizona
Nov. 7 USC
Nov. 13 Arizona State
Nov. 21 at Washington State
Nov. 28 at Oregon State

OREGON STATE (5-7, 4-5)
Corvallis, OR
Sept. 3 at Oklahoma State
Sept. 12 Colorado State
Sept. 19 Portland State
Sept. 26 Washington State
Oct. 3 at Arizona State
Oct. 10 at Washington
Oct. 24 California
Oct. 30 at Stanford
Nov. 7 UCLA
Nov. 14 at Utah
Nov. 21 Arizona
Nov. 28 Oregon

STANFORD (4-8, 3-6)
Stanford, CA
Sept. 5 William and Mary
Sept. 12 at Arizona
Sept. 19 USC
Sept. 26 at UCLA
Oct. 10 at Notre Dame
Oct. 17 Washington State
Oct. 24 at Oregon
Oct. 30 Oregon State
Nov. 7 at Washington
Nov. 14 Colorado
Nov. 21 at California
Nov. 28 BYU

UCLA (4-8, 4-5)
Los Angeles, CA
Aug. 29 New Mexico State
Sept. 5 at Hawaii
Sept. 19 at San Diego State
Sept. 26 Stanford
Oct. 3 Arizona
Oct. 10 at Arizona State
Oct. 17 at Colorado
Oct. 29 Utah
Nov. 7 at Oregon State
Nov. 14 Washington State
Nov. 21 USC
Nov. 27 at California

USC (8-5, 7-2)
Los Angeles, CA
Sept. 5 vs. Alabama #
Sept. 12 New Mexico
Sept. 19 at Stanford
Sept. 26 Arizona State
Oct. 2 at Utah
Oct. 10 California
Oct. 17 at Arizona
Oct. 31 Colorado
Nov. 7 at Oregon
Nov. 14 Washington
Nov. 21 at UCLA
Nov. 28 Notre Dame
#Arlington, TX

UTAH (11-3, 8-1)
Salt Lake City, UT
Sept. 3 BYU
Sept. 12 Montana State
Sept. 19 at Wyoming
Sept. 26 at California
Oct. 2 USC
Oct. 10 at Washington State
Oct. 17 Washington
Oct. 29 at UCLA
Nov. 7 Arizona
Nov. 14 Oregon State
Nov. 21 at Arizona State
Nov. 28 at Colorado

WASHINGTON (8-5, 4-5)
Seattle, WA
Sept. 5 Michigan
Sept. 12 Sacramento State
Sept. 19 Utah State
Oct. 3 at Oregon
Oct. 10 Oregon State
Oct. 17 at Utah
Oct. 23 Arizona
Oct. 31 at California
Nov. 7 Stanford
Nov. 14 at USC
Nov. 21 Colorado
Nov. 27 at Washington State

Florida

WASHINGTON STATE (6-7, 3-6)
Pullman, WA
Sept. 3 at Utah State
Sept. 12 Houston
Sept. 19 Idaho
Sept. 26 at Oregon State
Oct. 3 California
Oct. 10 Utah
Oct. 17 at Stanford
Oct. 31 Arizona State
Nov. 7 at Colorado
Nov. 14 at UCLA
Nov. 21 Oregon
Nov. 27 Washington

SEC

ALABAMA (11-2, 6-2)
Tuscaloosa, AL
Sept. 5 vs. USC #
Sept. 12 Georgia State
Sept. 19 Georgia
Sept. 26 Kent State
Oct. 3 at Ole Miss
Oct. 10 at Arkansas
Oct. 17 Mississippi State
Oct. 24 at Tennessee
Nov. 7 at LSU
Nov. 14 Tennessee-Martin
Nov. 21 Texas A&M
Nov. 28 Auburn
#Arlington, TX

ARKANSAS (2-10, 0-8)
Fayetteville, AR
Sept. 5 Nevada
Sept. 12 at Notre Dame
Sept. 19 at Mississippi State
Sept. 26 vs. Texas A&M #
Oct. 3 Charleston Southern
Oct. 10 Alabama
Oct. 17 LSU
Oct. 31 Tennessee
Nov. 7 at Auburn
Nov. 14 Ole Miss
Nov. 21 ULM
Nov. 28 vs. Missouri %
#Arlington, TX
%Kansas City, MO

AUBURN (9-4, 5-3)
Auburn, AL
Sept. 5 Alcorn State
Sept. 12 vs. North Carolina #
Sept. 19 at Ole Miss
Sept. 26 Southern Miss
Oct. 3 Kentucky
Oct. 10 at Georgia
Oct. 17 Texas A&M
Oct. 31 at Mississippi State
Nov. 7 Arkansas
Nov. 14 Massachusetts
Nov. 21 LSU
Nov. 28 at Alabama
#Atlanta, GA

FLORIDA (11-2, 6-2)
Gainesville, FL
Sept. 5 Eastern Washington
Sept. 12 Kentucky
Sept. 19 South Alabama
Sept. 26 at Tennessee
Oct. 3 South Carolina
Oct. 10 LSU
Oct. 17 at Ole Miss
Oct. 31 vs. Georgia #
Nov. 7 at Vanderbilt
Nov. 14 Missouri
Nov. 21 New Mexico State
Nov. 28 at Florida State
#Jacksonville, FL

GEORGIA (12-2, 7-1)
Athens, GA
Sept. 7 vs. Virginia #
Sept. 12 ETSU
Sept. 19 at Alabama
Sept. 26 ULM
Oct. 3 Vanderbilt
Oct. 10 Auburn
Oct. 17 at Missouri
Oct. 31 vs. Florida %
Nov. 7 at South Carolina
Nov. 14 Tennessee
Nov. 21 at Kentucky
Nov. 28 Georgia Tech
#Atlanta, GA
%Jacksonville, FL

KENTUCKY (8-5, 3-5)
Lexington, KY
Sept. 5 Eastern Michigan
Sept. 12 at Florida
Sept. 19 Kent State
Sept. 26 South Carolina
Oct. 3 at Auburn
Oct. 10 Eastern Illinois
Oct. 17 Vanderbilt
Oct. 24 at Missouri
Nov. 7 at Tennessee
Nov. 14 Mississippi State
Nov. 21 Georgia
Nov. 28 at Louisville

LSU (15-0, 8-0)
Baton Rouge, LA
Sept. 5 UTSA
Sept. 12 Texas
Sept. 19 at Rice #
Sept. 26 Ole Miss
Oct. 3 Nicholls
Oct. 10 at Florida
Oct. 17 at Arkansas
Oct. 24 Mississippi State
Nov. 7 Alabama
Nov. 14 South Carolina
Nov. 21 at Auburn
Nov. 28 at Texas A&M
#NRG Stadium

ND: Walter G. Arce Sr.; UF: Tom DiPace

MISSISSIPPI STATE (6-7, 3-5)
Starkville, MS
Sept. 3 New Mexico
Sept. 12 at NC State
Sept. 19 Arkansas
Sept. 26 Tulane
Oct. 3 Texas A&M
Oct. 17 at Alabama
Oct. 24 at LSU
Oct. 31 Auburn
Nov. 7 Missouri
Nov. 14 at Kentucky
Nov. 21 Alabama A&M
Nov. 26 at Ole Miss

MISSOURI (6-6, 3-5)
Columbia, MO
Sept. 5 Central Arkansas
Sept. 12 Vanderbilt
Sept. 19 at South Carolina
Sept. 26 Eastern Michigan
Oct. 3 at Tennessee
Oct. 10 at BYU
Oct. 17 Georgia
Oct. 24 Kentucky
Nov. 7 at Mississippi State
Nov. 14 at Florida
Nov. 21 Louisiana
Nov. 28 vs. Arkansas #

#Kansas City, MO

OLE MISS (4-8, 2-6)
Oxford, MS
Sept. 5 vs. Baylor #
Sept. 12 SE Missouri State
Sept. 19 Auburn
Sept. 26 at LSU
Oct. 3 Alabama
Oct. 10 at Vanderbilt
Oct. 17 Florida
Oct. 24 Connecticut
Nov. 7 at Texas A&M
Nov. 14 at Arkansas
Nov. 21 Georgia Southern
Nov. 26 Mississippi State
#Houston, TX

SOUTH CAROLINA (4-8, 3-5)
Columbia, SC
Sept. 5 Coastal Carolina
Sept. 12 East Carolina
Sept. 19 Missouri
Sept. 26 at Kentucky
Oct. 3 at Florida
Oct. 10 Tennessee
Oct. 24 Texas A&M
Oct. 31 at Vanderbilt
Nov. 7 Georgia
Nov. 14 at LSU
Nov. 21 Wofford
Nov. 28 at Clemson

TENNESSEE (8-5, 5-3)
Knoxville, TN
Sept. 5 Charlotte
Sept. 12 at Oklahoma
Sept. 19 Furman
Sept. 26 Florida
Oct. 3 Missouri
Oct. 10 at South Carolina
Oct. 24 Alabama
Oct. 31 at Arkansas
Nov. 7 Kentucky
Nov. 14 at Georgia
Nov. 21 Troy
Nov. 28 at Vanderbilt

TEXAS A&M (8-5, 4-4)
College Station, TX
Sept. 5 Abilene Christian
Sept. 12 North Texas
Sept. 19 Colorado
Sept. 26 vs. Arkansas #
Oct. 3 at Mississippi State
Oct. 10 Fresno State
Oct. 17 at Auburn
Oct. 24 at South Carolina
Nov. 7 Ole Miss
Nov. 14 Vanderbilt
Nov. 21 at Alabama
Nov. 28 LSU
#Arlington, TX

VANDERBILT (3-9, 1-7)
Nashville, TN
Sept. 5 Mercer
Sept. 12 at Missouri
Sept. 19 at Kansas State
Sept. 26 Colorado State
Oct. 3 at Georgia
Oct. 10 Ole Miss
Oct. 17 at Kentucky
Oct. 31 South Carolina
Nov. 7 Florida
Nov. 14 at Texas A&M
Nov. 21 Louisiana Tech
Nov. 28 Tennessee

SUN BELT

APPALACHIAN STATE (13-1, 7-1)
Boone, NC
Sept. 5 Morgan State
Sept. 11 at Wake Forest
Sept. 19 at Wisconsin
Sept. 26 Massachusetts
Oct. 7 Louisiana
Oct. 14 at Georgia Southern
Oct. 24 Arkansas State
Oct. 31 at ULM
Nov. 7 at Texas State
Nov. 14 Georgia State
Nov. 21 at Coastal Carolina
Nov. 28 Troy

ARKANSAS STATE (8-5, 5-3)
Jonesboro, AR
Sept. 5 at Memphis
Sept. 12 Howard
Sept. 19 at Michigan
Sept. 26 Tulsa
Oct. 3 at Coastal Carolina
Oct. 15 Georgia State
Oct. 24 at Appalachian State
Oct. 31 Troy
Nov. 5 at Louisiana
Nov. 14 ULM
Nov. 21 at Texas State
Nov. 28 South Alabama

COASTAL CAROLINA (5-7, 2-6)
Conway, SC
Sept. 5 at South Carolina
Sept. 12 at Eastern Michigan
Sept. 19 Duquesne
Sept. 26 Kansas
Oct. 3 Arkansas State
Oct. 17 at Louisiana
Oct. 24 Georgia Southern
Oct. 29 at Georgia State
Nov. 7 South Alabama
Nov. 14 at Troy
Nov. 21 Appalachian State
Nov. 28 at Texas State

GEORGIA SOUTHERN (7-6, 5-3)
Statesboro, GA
Sept. 5 at Boise State
Sept. 12 Campbell
Sept. 19 Florida Atlantic
Sept. 26 at Louisiana
Oct. 3 at ULM
Oct. 14 Appalachian State
Oct. 24 at Coastal Carolina
Oct. 31 South Alabama
Nov. 7 Troy
Nov. 14 Texas State
Nov. 21 at Ole Miss
Nov. 28 at Georgia State

GEORGIA STATE (7-6, 4-4)
Atlanta, GA
Sept. 5 Murray State
Sept. 12 at Alabama
Sept. 19 Louisiana
Sept. 26 at Charlotte
Oct. 3 East Carolina
Oct. 15 at Arkansas State
Oct. 24 at Troy
Oct. 29 Coastal Carolina
Nov. 7 ULM
Nov. 14 at Appalachian State
Nov. 21 at South Alabama
Nov. 28 Georgia Southern

LOUISIANA (11-3, 7-1)
Lafayette, LA
Sept. 5 McNeese
Sept. 12 Wyoming
Sept. 19 at Georgia State
Sept. 26 Georgia Southern
Oct. 7 at Appalachian State
Oct. 17 Coastal Carolina
Oct. 24 at New Mexico State
Oct. 31 at Texas State
Nov. 5 Arkansas State
Nov. 14 South Alabama
Nov. 21 at Missouri
Nov. 28 at ULM

SOUTH ALABAMA (2-10, 1-7)
Mobile, AL
Sept. 5 at Southern Miss
Sept. 12 Grambling State
Sept. 19 at Florida
Sept. 26 UAB
Oct. 3 Troy
Oct. 17 Texas State
Oct. 22 ULM
Oct. 31 at Georgia Southern
Nov. 7 at Coastal Carolina
Nov. 14 at Louisiana
Nov. 21 Georgia State
Nov. 28 at Arkansas State

TEXAS STATE (3-9, 2-6)
San Marcos, TX
Sept. 5 SMU
Sept. 12 UTSA
Sept. 19 at ULM
Sept. 26 Ohio
Oct. 3 at New Mexico State
Oct. 8 at Troy
Oct. 17 at South Alabama
Oct. 31 Louisiana
Nov. 7 Appalachian State
Nov. 14 at Georgia Southern
Nov. 21 Arkansas State
Nov. 28 Coastal Carolina

TROY (10-3, 7-1)
Troy, AL
Sept. 5 Arkansas-Pine Bluff
Sept. 12 at Massachusetts
Sept. 19 NC State
Oct. 3 at South Alabama
Oct. 8 Texas State
Oct. 17 ULM
Oct. 24 Georgia State
Oct. 31 at Arkansas State
Nov. 7 at Georgia Southern
Nov. 14 Coastal Carolina
Nov. 21 at Tennessee
Nov. 28 at Appalachian State

ULM (5-7, 4-4)
Monroe, LA
Sept. 5 Cal Poly
Sept. 19 Texas State
Sept. 26 at Georgia
Oct. 3 Georgia Southern
Oct. 10 at Liberty
Oct. 17 at Troy
Oct. 22 at South Alabama
Oct. 31 Appalachian State
Nov. 7 at Georgia State
Nov. 14 at Arkansas State
Nov. 21 at Arkansas
Nov. 28 Louisiana

INDEPENDENTS

ARMY (5-8)
West Point, NY
Sept. 4 Bucknell
Sept. 12 at Rice
Sept. 26 Oklahoma
Oct. 3 at Miami (Ohio)
Oct. 10 Princeton
Oct. 17 Eastern Michigan
Oct. 24 Buffalo
Nov. 7 Air Force
Nov. 14 at Tulane
Nov. 21 at Massachusetts
Nov. 28 at Connecticut
Dec. 12 vs. Navy #
#Philadelphia, PA

BYU (7-6)
Provo, UT
Sept. 3 at Utah
Sept. 12 Michigan State
Sept. 19 at Arizona State
Sept. 26 at Minnesota
Oct. 2 Utah State
Oct. 10 Missouri
Oct. 16 Houston
Oct. 24 vs. Northern Illinois #
Nov. 6 at Boise State
Nov. 14 San Diego State
Nov. 21 North Alabama
Nov. 28 at Stanford
#Bridgeview, IL

CONNECTICUT (2-10, 0-8 AAC)
Storrs, CT
Sept. 3 Massachusetts
Sept. 12 at Illinois
Sept. 19 at Virginia
Sept. 26 Indiana
Oct. 3 Old Dominion
Oct. 10 Maine
Oct. 24 at Ole Miss
Oct. 31 Liberty
Nov. 7 at North Carolina
Nov. 14 at San Jose State
Nov. 21 Middle Tennessee
Nov. 28 Army

Notre Dame

LIBERTY (6-6)
Lynchburg, VA
Sept. 5 at Virginia Tech
Sept. 12 North Carolina A&T
Sept. 19 at Western Kentucky
Sept. 26 FIU
Oct. 3 at Bowling Green
Oct. 10 ULM
Oct. 17 at Syracuse
Oct. 24 Southern Miss
Oct. 31 at Connecticut
Nov. 14 Western Carolina
Nov. 21 at NC State
Nov. 28 Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS (1-11)
Amherst, MA
Sept. 3 at Connecticut
Sept. 12 Troy
Sept. 19 Albany
Sept. 26 at Appalachian State
Oct. 3 at New Mexico
Oct. 10 Temple
Oct. 17 at Akron
Oct. 24 FIU
Nov. 7 New Mexico State
Nov. 14 at Auburn
Nov. 21 Army
Nov. 28 at Liberty

NEW MEXICO STATE (2-10)
Las Cruces, NM
Aug. 29 at UCLA
Sept. 3 at UAB
Sept. 12 Akron
Sept. 19 New Mexico
Sept. 26 at UTEP
Oct. 3 Texas State
Oct. 10 at Hawaii
Oct. 17 at Fresno State
Oct. 24 Louisiana
Nov. 7 at Massachusetts
Nov. 14 Texas Southern
Nov. 21 at Florida

NOTRE DAME (11-2)
South Bend, IN
Aug. 29 vs. Navy #
Sept. 12 Arkansas
Sept. 19 Western Michigan
Sept. 26 vs. Wake Forest %
Oct. 3 vs. Wisconsin &
Oct. 10 Stanford
Oct. 17 at Pittsburgh
Oct. 31 Duke
Nov. 7 Clemson
Nov. 14 at Georgia Tech $
Nov. 21 Louisville
Nov. 28 at USC
#Dublin, Ireland
%Charlotte, NC
&Green Bay, WI
$Mercedes-Benz Stadium

2020 BOWL Projections

ALAMO
Big 12 vs. Pac-12
Oklahoma State vs. USC

ARIZONA
MAC vs. Mountain West
Buffalo vs. San Diego State

ARMED FORCES
American/Army/C-USA/Big 12
Kansas State vs. SMU

BAHAMAS
C-USA vs. MAC
FAU vs. Miami (Ohio)

BELK
ACC vs. Big Ten
Louisville vs. Minnesota

BIRMINGHAM
ACC/American/SEC
Memphis vs. Southern Miss*

BOCA RATON
American/C-USA/MAC
UCF vs. UAB

CAMELLIA
MAC vs. Sun Belt
Ball State vs. Georgia Southern

CAMPING WORLD
ACC vs. Big 12
Virginia Tech vs. Texas

CHEEZ-IT
Big 12 vs. Big Ten
TCU vs. Purdue

CITRUS
Big Ten vs. SEC
Wisconsin vs. Auburn

CURE
American/MAC/Sun Belt/C-USA
Liberty vs. MTSU

FAMOUS IDAHO POTATO
MAC vs. Mountain West
Toledo vs. Air Force

FENWAY
ACC vs. American
Syracuse vs. Temple

FIRST RESPONDER
American/ACC/Big 12
Louisiana Tech vs. Washington State*

FRISCO
American/C-USA/MAC/Mountain West
Houston vs. Oregon State*

GASPARILLA
American/ACC/SEC
NC State vs. Tulane

GATOR
ACC vs. SEC
Florida State vs. Ole Miss

HAWAII
Mountain West vs. AAC/C-USA
Nevada vs. Marshall

HOLIDAY
ACC vs. Pac-12
Pitt vs. California

INDEPENDENCE
Army vs. Pac-12
Army vs. Stanford

LAS VEGAS
Pac-12 vs. SEC
Arizona State vs. Texas A&M

LENDINGTREE
MAC vs. Sun Belt
Ohio vs. Appalachian State

LIBERTY
Big 12 vs. SEC
Baylor vs. Kentucky

LOS ANGELES
Mountain West vs. Pac-12
Boise State vs. UCLA

MILITARY
ACC vs. American
Wake Forest vs. Navy

MUSIC CITY
Big Ten vs. SEC
Iowa vs. South Carolina

MYRTLE BEACH
American/MAC/Sun Belt/C-USA
Arkansas State vs. Charlotte

NEW MEXICO
American/C-USA/MW
Wyoming vs. BYU

NEW ORLEANS
C-USA vs. Sun Belt
Louisiana vs. WKU

OUTBACK
Big Ten vs. SEC
Michigan vs. Tennessee

PINSTRIPE
ACC vs. Big Ten
Virginia vs. Nebraska

QUICK LANE
Big Ten vs. MAC
Michigan State vs. Central Michigan

REDBOX
Big Ten vs. Pac-12
Indiana vs. Washington

SUN
ACC vs. Pac-12
Miami vs. Utah

TEXAS
Big 12 vs. SEC
Iowa State vs. Mississippi State

New Year's Six

COTTON
At-Large vs. At-Large
Notre Dame vs. LSU

PEACH
At-Large vs. At-Large
Georgia vs. Cincinnati

FIESTA
At-Large vs. At-Large
Penn State vs. Oregon

ORANGE
ACC vs. Big Ten/SEC/Notre Dame
North Carolina vs. Florida

* Indicates conference will fail to fill allotted bowl spots.

DEVONTA SMITH

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

National Semifinal
ROSE BOWL
ALABAMA VS. OHIO STATE

National Semifinal
SUGAR BOWL
CLEMSON VS. OKLAHOMA

National Championship
Rose Bowl Winner vs. Sugar Bowl Winner
ALABAMA VS. CLEMSON

TREVOR LAWRENCE

Smith: Kent Gidley/Crimson Tide Photos/UA Athletics; Lawrence: Paul Abell

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